FOOTHILL COLLEGE
INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH & PLANNING

DATE: September 25, 2018
TO: Lisa Eshman, Instructor/Program Director, Veterinary Technology Program
FROM: Elaine Kuo, College Researcher
José Almonte, Research Assistant
RE: Veterinary Technology (VT) Alumni and Employer Survey Results, 2018

Overview

Graduating students and alumni of the Veterinary Technology (VT) program were surveyed to document their current employment, and satisfaction with the program. Employers affiliated with the VT program were also surveyed to obtain their satisfaction with program graduates.

Graduating Students Year 0 Highlights

The graduating student survey was administered online from June 15, 2017 to June 24, 2017 to those graduating from the VT program in 2017-18. There was a total of 21 respondents.

Program Satisfaction

- The majority of respondents (20 out of 21; 95%) feel their AVMA-accredited program prepared them "extremely well" (8) or "very well" (12) for their veterinary technology career.
- The top 3 areas where graduates felt the **best prepared** are anesthesia (13, 19%), basic clinical skills (11, 16%) and medical nursing (19, 13%).
- The top areas where graduates felt **less prepared** are pharmacy & pharmacology (12, 24%), for clinical pathology (7 or 14%), diagnostic imaging (7, 14%), office & hospital procedures (7, 14%),
- **18 of the 21 respondents will be employed after graduation, with 57% (12) employed full time. Five students reported working part time and one student is double employed, working both full and part time. The remaining students were actively seeking employment.**
- **90% (19) would recommend Foothill's VT program** to others and another 10% (2) might. Respondents cited **knowledgeable and caring instructors**, **hands-on experience** and **challenging but fulfilling work** as some reasons for their recommendation. One area of improvement cited was related to increasing understanding regarding time management issues, especially as students are trying to balance class, internship and commuting.

Alumni Year 1 Highlights

The alumni survey was administered online from July 12, 2018 to July 29, 2018 to those who graduated from the program in 2016-17 (one year ago). There was a total of 20 respondents.

Current Employment

- **All respondents (20) reported their primary occupation is a veterinary technician-related job.**
- Among the 20 alumni currently employed in a veterinary technician-related job, **the majority (19, 95%) are employed full time.**
    - **70% (14) are employed for at least a year** and another 10% (2) are employed for 6 to 11 months.
    - Most alumni work in Santa Clara (9, 45%) or in San Mateo (2, 10%), San Francisco (2, 10%), Contra Costa (2, 10%), and Alameda (2, 10%) counties.
    - **11% (2) reported an hourly wage of more than $30.00, 39% (7) reported an hourly wage between $20.01 to $25.00**, and the majority 56% (10) reported an hourly wage between $15.01 to $20.00.
    - **10 (50%) described their current work involves small animals such as dog or cat or pocket pet,** followed by those who also work with small animals plus avian small animals and avian (5, 25%).

Program Satisfaction

- Most employed respondents (90%) reported their AVMA-accredited program prepared them "extremely well" (9) or "very well" (9) for their veterinary technology career.
- The top 3 areas where alumni felt the **best prepared** are basic clinical skills (11, 14%), diagnostic imaging (10, 13%), and medical nursing (9, 12%).
- The top 3 areas alumni selected they felt **less prepared** are dentistry (14, 25%), clinical pathology (7, 13%), and anesthesia and animal diseases/public health is third (5, 9% each).
- **All 20 alumni would recommend Foothill's VT program** to others. Respondents cited **great education, good preparation, hands-on experience,** and **Foothill's renown in the field and program professionalism** as some reasons for their recommendation.

Alumni Year 3 Highlights

The alumni survey was administered online from July 12, 2018 to July 27, 2018 to those who graduated from the program in 2014-15 (three years ago). There was a total of 22 respondents.

Current Employment

- **86% (19) reported their primary occupation is a veterinary technician-related job.** Three alumni respondents who are not employed cited, "not working, not looking for work," "not working, looking for work," and "student," as their current employment status.
- Among the 19 alumni currently employed in a veterinary technician-related job, **17 of them are employed full time, with the two others employed part time.**
    - **79% (15) are employed for more than two years** and another 11% (2) are employed for more than 1 year but less than 2 years.
    - Most alumni work in Santa Clara County (26%), followed by San Francisco County (21%).

- **A combined 63% make over $20.00 an hour.** Here is the breakdown:
  - More than $30/hr: (1, 5%)
  - $25.01/hr to $30/hr: (5, 26%)
  - $20.01/hr to $25/hr: (6, 32%)
- **77% (14) described their current work involves small animals such as dog or cat, among other disciplines.** Here is the breakdown:
  - Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet: (9, 50%)
  - Small animal plus avian: (2, 11%)
  - Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet, Not-for-profit organization humane society nature center etc.: (1, 6%)
  - Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet, avian and exotics (1, 6%)
  - Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet, Small animal plus avian (1, 6%)

Program Satisfaction

- Most of the 19 employed respondents agreed their AVMA-accredited program prepared them "extremely well" (11) or "very well" (7) for their veterinary technology career, with one individual reporting "somewhat well."
- The top areas where alumni felt the **best prepared** are basic clinical skills (16, 13%), anesthesia (14, 12%), pharmacy and pharmacology (10, 8%).
- The top areas where alumni felt **less prepared** are dentistry (8, 17%) and surgical nursing (7, 15%), and diagnostic imaging (5, 11%).
- **All of the alumni would recommend Foothill's VT program to others**. Respondents cited the **preparation**, **internship opportunities, reasonable tuition, and wonderful instructors/staff** as some reasons for their recommendation.

<u>Employers</u>

Employers identified by the VT program were sent an online survey to be completed from July 12, 2018 to July 28, 2018. There was a total of 27 respondents.

Employer Information

- Most employers' practice are located in Santa Clara (33%) or San Mateo County (30%).
- Almost all employers described their practice involves at least some small animals (dog or cat exclusive) (24, 89%).
- A majority of employers reported their starting hourly wage for veterinary technician is $15.01/hr to $20.00/hr (16, 59%).
- Most employers reported their hourly wage for veterinary technicians with 1 to 3 years of experience is between $20.01/hr to $25.00/hr (11, 52%) or $15.01 and $20.00 (10, 48%).

Program Satisfaction

- **96% (26) employers responded "yes" to the prompt: Foothill VT graduates generally possess good knowledge and clinical skills related to the field.** For the respondent who said "no," they elaborated on their response:
  - *"They understand a lot of the terminology, but are not able to actually perform on live animals."*

- The top areas where employers felt Foothill VT graduates were **well prepared** are basic clinical skills (17, 20%), professionalism (16, 18%) and medical nursing (9, 10%).
- The top areas where employers felt Foothill VT graduates were **less prepared** are emergency medicine (9, 12%), tied with anesthesia (8, 11%), dentistry (8, 11%), and 11% (8) surgical nursing (8, 11%).
- **Most employers (25, 93%) would hire another Foothill VT graduate.** Two employers (7%) reported "maybe."

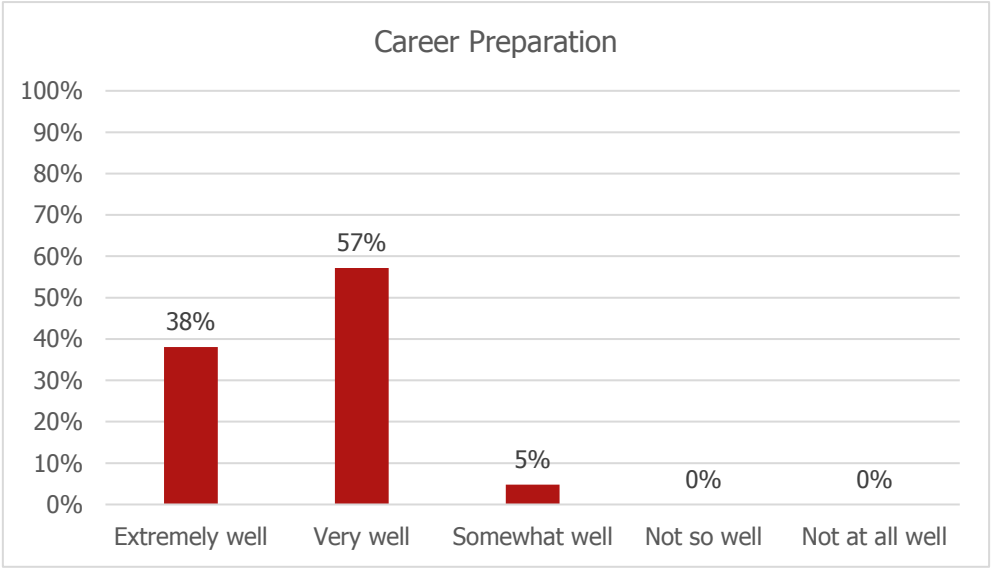
Methodology

Four online surveys were created using Remark survey software. Graduating students, alumni and employers were sent an email invite from the program director with the survey link embedded. Survey responses were tabulated using excel.

Vet Tech Graduating Student Survey 2018 Results

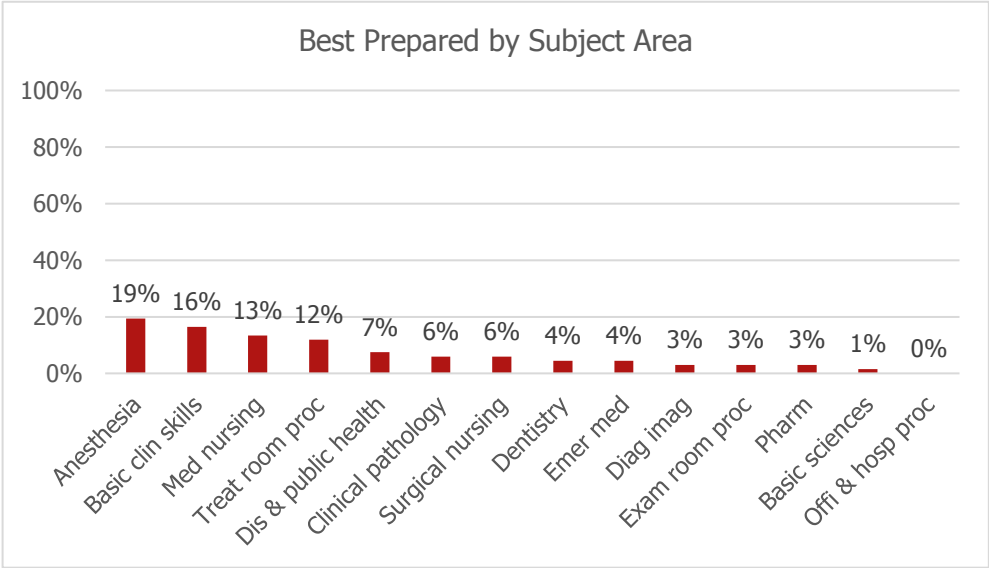
1. How well has your AVMA-accredited program prepared you for a veterinary technology career?

Response	#	%
Extremely well	8	38%
Very well	12	57%
Somewhat well	1	5%
Not so well	0	0%
Not at all well	0	0%
Total	21	100%



2. Which of the following areas do you feel you are best prepared? (21 respondents)

Response	#	%
Anesthesia	13	19%
Basic clinical skills	11	16%
Medical nursing	9	13%
Treatment room procedures	8	12%
Animal diseases and public health	5	7%
Clinical pathology	4	6%
Surgical nursing	4	6%
Dentistry	3	4%
Emergency medicine	3	4%
Diagnostic imaging	2	3%
Exam room procedures	2	3%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	2	3%
Basic sciences	1	1%
Office and hospital procedures	0	0%
Total	67	100%

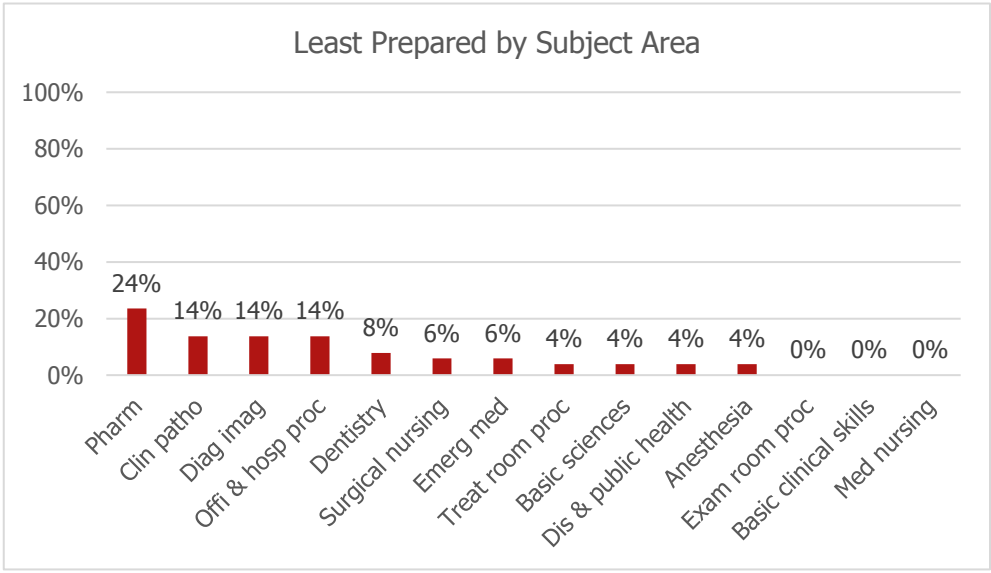


Note: Students could select multiple responses.

3. Which of the following areas do you feel you are less prepared? (21 respondents)

Response	#	%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	12	24%
Clinical pathology	7	14%
Diagnostic imaging	7	14%
Office and hospital procedures	7	14%
Dentistry	4	8%
Surgical nursing	3	6%
Emergency medicine	3	6%
Treatment room procedures	2	4%
Basic sciences	2	4%
Animal diseases and public health	2	4%
Anesthesia	2	4%
Exam room procedures	0	0%
Basic clinical skills	0	0%
Medical nursing	0	0%
Total	51	100%

Note: Students could select multiple responses.



Other responses:

"Large Animal (Zeytoonian is one of the best teachers in the program there's just a lot of info on the VTNE and our focus/my experice is not with large animal)"

"If I was going into Large animal I would not feel prepared based on only what was covered in the program."

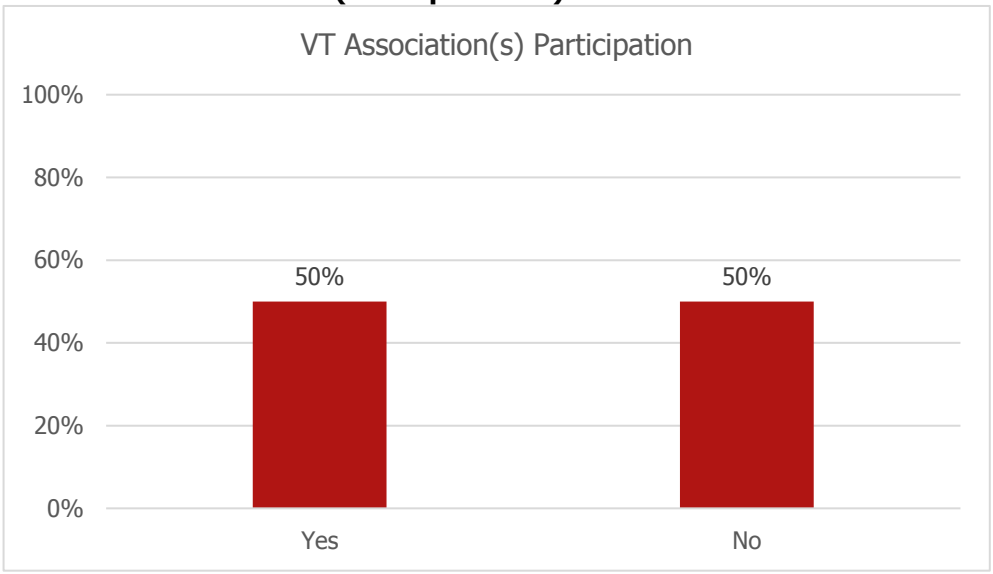
"*(film development for radiographs)"

"common encounters/problems with clients"

Vet Tech Graduating Student Survey 2018 Results

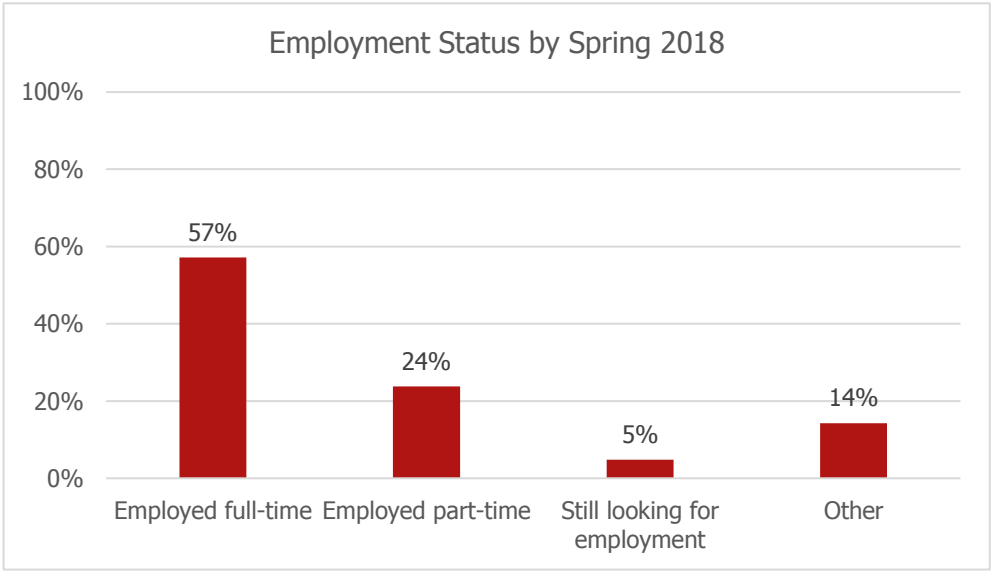
4. Are you currently a member of an organized verterinary or technician association? (20 respondents)

Response	#	%
Yes	10	50%
No	10	50%
Total	20	100%



5. What will be your employment status by the end of this Spring? (21 respondents)

Response	#	%
Employed full-time	12	57%
Employed part-time	5	24%
Still looking for employment	1	5%
Other	3	14%
Total	21	100%



Other responses:
"If I get my DACA permit I will have a full time job"
"double employed Full and Part time"
"Have interviews lined up"

6. Please share at least one memorable experience you had as a student in the program. What was your experience with the coursework and structure of the program? How was your relationship with the faculty? How about with other students?

My experience in the program was overall positive, but I do think that for some classes the time spent on the material shouldn't be rushed. The faculty is helpful but I do think that at times they should be more understanding about the students personal life and how the vet tech program fits in their schedule without jumping to conclusions. Also, there are instructors that do play favorites, so that is also something to be aware of. The students seem ok.

I think the coursework is challenging but not overwhelming. The teachers go above and beyond to help the students, as long as they try to help themselves.

rotating through the different roles in anesthesia practical, was the most beneficial to me. Really showed me if I could apply my skills in real life situations and working with other to best serve our patient. The faculty has been really great working with us, but it really comes down to the student's seeking for help. Very time-intensive program; would rather some classes have less of a workload, but with more relevant assignments. It is difficult being with so many different personality types for 2 years, and especially group work can be very challenging. But I have made memorable and lasting relationships with many in the class.

The most stressful experiences was a lab practical where we had 6 minutes per station. It didn't flow very well so sometimes precious minutes were lost making it more stressful. I broke down and cried afterwards and was not alone. The coursework was doable but often felt like some classes had too much busy work which did not teach us anything and only added to our already full schedules. I had good relationships with all of my teachers but toward the end some seemed to be annoyed with us much of the time. I like most of my classmates. There are a couple that I won't miss too much after we graduate.

The "aha!" moment I had during second year (don't remember exactly when) when I actually started feeling like a veterinary technician and not a student. All the things I had learned, the coursework I had done, the endless hours of studying.....it all came together and I realized how much I actually knew. The faculty are awesome. Sometimes it can feel as though things are repeated a lot, and like you're a kid again in middle school, but I realized that they only want what is best for us and to make us great veterinary technicians. We were lucky to have such a closely bonded class of students. We were all excited to be there (even when we really weren't) and were able to all get along and appreciate some of the lifelong friendships we have made in this program.

First time as the anesthetist felt like the true culmination of the knowledge I'd gained over the two years. There is so much information packed into just 6 quarters and I felt the assignment load was a little excessive once we started internships. Everyone was overall pleasant and supportive, I had no major issues personally

I love my time in the program. Of course the workload was stressful but I think we became like a family with most of the students and teachers. Certain teachers provided really relevant and thought out coursework and I really appreciated that.

The cameraderie I felt with my classmates was unforgettable. The instructors were all fantastic & well-versed in what they were teaching.

Overall structure pf program can be hectic. Your life belongs to the program for two years. It makes it difficult for anyone who would like to work while taking classes. I am aware instructors are trying to work on this, but think allowing students to actually choose a three year route could be helpful. Students tend to band together with classmates. Its nice to be close to a large group of people. Faculty relationships with students seem very polarized. Some teachers are very supportive of everyone. Some teachers are known to be curt towards students and seem to pick certain students to give a harder time. Including with grading.

One memorable experience was in radiology lab- getting a chance to radiograph animals from the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo. I felt that the coursework was resonable but students should be notified ahead of time the commitment that will be expected of them outside of scheduled class times - not just for animal care but also for supplemental instruction, mandatory labs, and small animal surgery days. I believe that my relationship with faculty was amicable. I felt that towards the end of the program my relationship with other students felt strained.

Going on the field trips to the horse therapy center. Sinking my first blood draw. FLASHCARDS! First day of internship vs where I am now. The course load was manageable when we had 1-3hr breaks between classes and no busy work assignments. Case studies/quizzes/exams and practical tests were helpful. Essays/office practice as a whole/online HW were time wasters and detracted from my learning. I really respect and learned a lot from the majority of the faculty. Members I did not enjoy, other classmates did. I believe that this is a sign that every current faculty member contributes to the program. Special gratitude to Shae in particular. This program has provided me with community that will carry me forward in life. I have made wonderful new friends. Of course I do not get on with everyone, but that's to be expected in a large group (having breaks between classes helps with being around one group 24/7). I am so grateful to the majority my peers!

My most memorable experience was going on the horse trip. Participating in this trip and working with the horse we had on campus is the most experience I will have with a horse, and though I am fearful of them it was the safest and most educational way for me to concure that I appreciate the sturcure of the program every class builds on to another and enhance the skill. The course work is abundant and fast past, sometimes hard to follow. I think my relationship with the faculty was good. I had no conflicts. Each instructor my themselves available if I needed it. Same with the students we were all open to helping each other.

Reptile handling lab in Exotics was really fun. Any of the animal handling labs were great. 1st year the coursework was very easy as I came in with an animal science bachelors degree. I liked the vast majority of the faculty most of the time. (one point of contact and decisions for animal care helps a lot) My classmates were people.

Some of my most memorable experiences include: the field trips to Monterey Bay Horsemanship and Therapeutic Center, working as a group through patients' surgical procedures in Anesthesiology lab, and participating in Small Animal Surgery Day. These experiences really helped students practice their skills and build confidence. I think the coursework was helpful, overall. It would be a good idea to share schedules between classes, that way one week isn't overloaded with exams/papers/projects over other weeks in the quarter. I think it was a great idea to move Anesthesiology to the last quarter of the program, and to have it in a quarter with only 13 credit hours. The winter quarter was very difficult - I would not recommend having a 17.5hr course load during a quarter with two Monday holidays and WVC. My relationship with the faculty was pretty good, I think. I felt like I could approach any of them with questions or concerns. I really appreciate all of the other students in my class. Although it can be difficult to go through such a rigorous program together, I

think we all did our best to respect one another.

Got along with most of the students. Cordial with some faculty, good relationships with the rest. When I was having a difficult time, a few different instructors supported me through it.

I did like how they changed Anesthesia to spring quarter, it was a good wrap up class where you can put everything that you learned together. I had a good relationship with the faculty and I got along well with the students. We had a really good class, everyone was friendly and willing to help out one another. All my teachers wanted to see me succeed and helped me do my best.

Donna Morgan is a wonderful teacher, who is encouraging and positive. After we all worked so hard one quarter, she recognized that and gave positive reinforcement, that is definitely lacking in this program.

The effort and care the instructors showed me at various points during the program truly helped me succeed. The coursework was intense and a bit heavy at times.

The necropsy lab was one of the more memorable lessons. the first couple months the course load made me feel like i was barely keeping up. both my relationship with my fellow students and faculty was good, our class didn't seem to have much problem with each other most of the time

Love the instructors. I can't pin point one specific event as it was all so memorable. Obviously work load was heavy, which was expected. Made some great friends who u would love the opportunity to work with in the future.

7. Based on your experiences, what is one change you would recommend to the program?

Dedicate more time to certain classes such as, clin path, pharmacology and anesthesia. The instructors do a awesome job of teaching but I feel that they rush through. Also I think that internship should be required at the second quarter, especially for those with zero clinical experience, this will be beneficial to since we will be able to practice basic things we learn in the first quarter.

Better prepare incoming students for the additional time requirements of animal care and supplemental instruction.

Practicing more skills on real animals (Living or cadavers), Very different than practicing on mannequins or fruits.

Less busywork, especially when it is redundant with other previous projects we've done.

Try to minimize busy work. We work really hard and have jam packed schedules. Sitting down to do busy work that isn't really helping us gain experience or knowledge pertinent to being a veterinary technician is difficult and emotionally draining.

We really need a way to practice with ultrasonic scalers and dental radiography in live animals because those skills cannot be replicated well with a model

Hold students to higher standards. We are held to such high standards in certain classes and in our clinics that when other classes let things slide or give multiple chances to do things that should already be mastered make it frustrating for students working so hard.

Winter quarter is way too much...

The idea that solely or strog negative feedback is a good way to help students learn. Some teachers are very supportive, but multiple teachers will only give negative feedback, even if you did well overall in a task/assignment. Some students are treated with obvious distain in front of classmates.

Notifying students of the time requirement outside of scheduled class hours prior to the start of that quarter.

More extensive screening of students - some did not deserve to be here as their skills were lacking or their attitudes/personalities were not conducive to medical work. I believe this is a disservice to the majority of students, the program and our profession as a whole. Let it be an option to fail students.

Revamp dentistry. There are numerous extraction tools we never talked about at all. Keeping a ergonomic posture in mind is a little difficult when we don't cover the points that make it an ergonomic posture, Radiographing a skull verses radiographing an actual cat head is incredibly different. Maybe practice with the cat heads used for dental cleaning in the class?

Require an essay or interview prior to accepting students into the program. It is frustrating when students drop out after a few weeks or months into the program - it takes slots away from dedicated applicants. I would also recommend that instructors use positive feedback, instead of scare tactics when trying to motivate their students. If a certain student has an issue, pull them aside and address them one-on-one, rather than generalizing the reprimand to the entire class.

More positive feedback, less negative.

Not so much of a work overload in the second winter quarter, which is already subject to change I believe.

Some of the course work is busy work when there is so much to learn why not use the best of the time. Lots of Sandy's classes where spent not doing much or leaning much. In dentistry lab we spent so much time sharpening instruments and not even learning how to chart correctly. Also some of the power points should be more interactive and not so dense with words. Also exotics class needs more structure, we spend so much time going off on tangents and not really learning any information.

blue book/sign off order

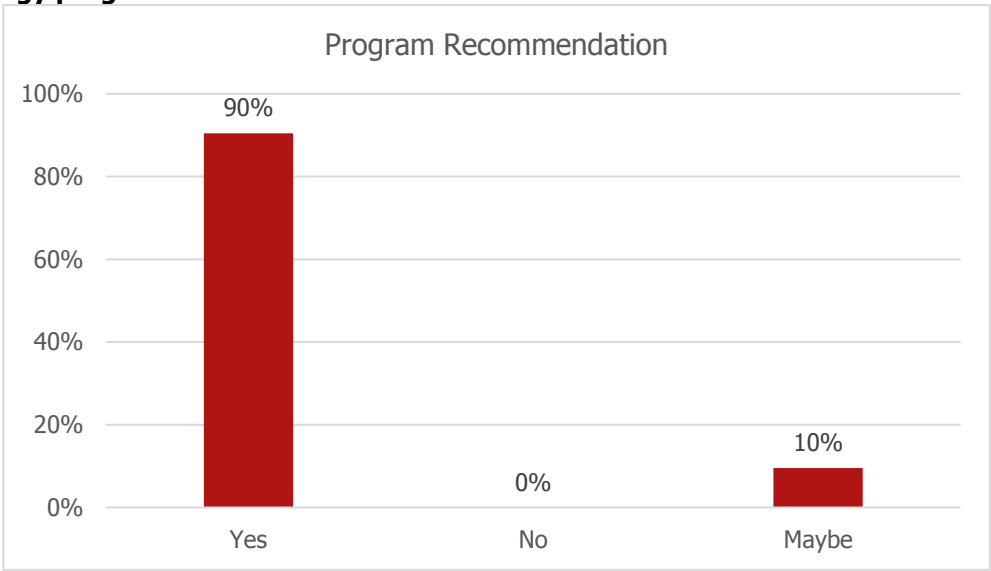
more hands on with program animals. Second year students should be given patients weekly that they need to do PE, blood work and UA and then other possible tx's like ear cleaning, cytology etc. Then we should talk about the values we find and what medication can be used to treat. Everything is compartmentalized in the program, and this would be better at teaching a big picture whole concept and would mimic work in the reall world now. BETTER COMMUNICATION for everyone, have things in writting what is planned and what was decided on. esp for animal care. more behavior edu. don't just assume that students are complaining all the time, somethings may be constructive critism or actually be something that can be fixed. treat students like the adults they are.

something needs to be done with winter quarter year two, it was the quarter which seemed to have some much more going on. getting into spring year two, you spent it waiting for the other shoe to drop.

Proficiency course...not enough in class review.

8. Would you recommend Foothill College's veterinary technology program to others?

Response	#	%
Yes	19	90%
No	0	0%
Maybe	2	10%
Total	21	100%



Please explain your response:

The program is very challenging but the education provided is high quality and his makes you graduate prepared for your career.

I already do.

I joined the program to better my contribution at my job at a wildlife center. I feel like my time might have been better spent attending wildlife conferences as most of the focus was on cats and dogs. It was a good education just not always applicable. I don't recommend the program for people who want to work with wildlife.

It is one of the best schools around. The work is harder than I expected, but worth it in the end knowing that I am well prepared to pass my VTNE and be a valuable asset to my employers, and a great nurse for my patients.

I would with the exception that I would explain that it's a work in progress as always. I think this years students gave a spot of feedback that can help make the program even better. I'm really happy I came to this program, it was a great experience for me.

I do not feel like the stress level of the students has been taken seriously until very recently. It is very difficult to manage your time when work has to be fit between almost full days of classes plus internship hours. Commute time can also take a toll dependingnon how far someone lives from campus. Some flexibility for students would go a long way to makong the program nore managable overall.

The hands on skills and amount of knowledge provided is invaluable. Having the real animals on campus, all the actual equipment, the variety of teachers and support of a cohort was wonderful. It is hard, but very worth it. The price makes it accessible and if you succeed you will go into an industry that is always growing and changing. Being in an industry/program fronted by women is also amazing and an important aspect of what makes foothill vet tech great.

It has the most hands on and book experience. With instructors that have spent time in the field and over real life advise and experience. It is longer than most programs I know of but completely worth the time to build on your skills and get work in the field.

Good program, the teachers care about their students. the price is much more reasonable than Carrington College. they do their level best to see us succeed.

Although the program was very demanding and time-intensive, I think it benefited us students in the long run. The instructors are dedicated to their students' success, and make themselves available outside of class time to ensure they understand concepts and can practice technical skills.

I'd let them know they will have no free time for themselves and their families, and that it will benefit them greatly to already have worked in a clinic as a kennel hand or assistant so the basic skills aren't an issue.

I feel like i got the best education out there to become a vet tech. The program is challenging but worthwhile

Yes, absolutely! The teaching and training done here is outstanding and informative in all the best ways. It's a tough program but I definitely feel like the instructors do an amazing job in preparing us for the technical skills for this career.

this program is good, but can be be even better. is inexpensive as well to start a career in the field.

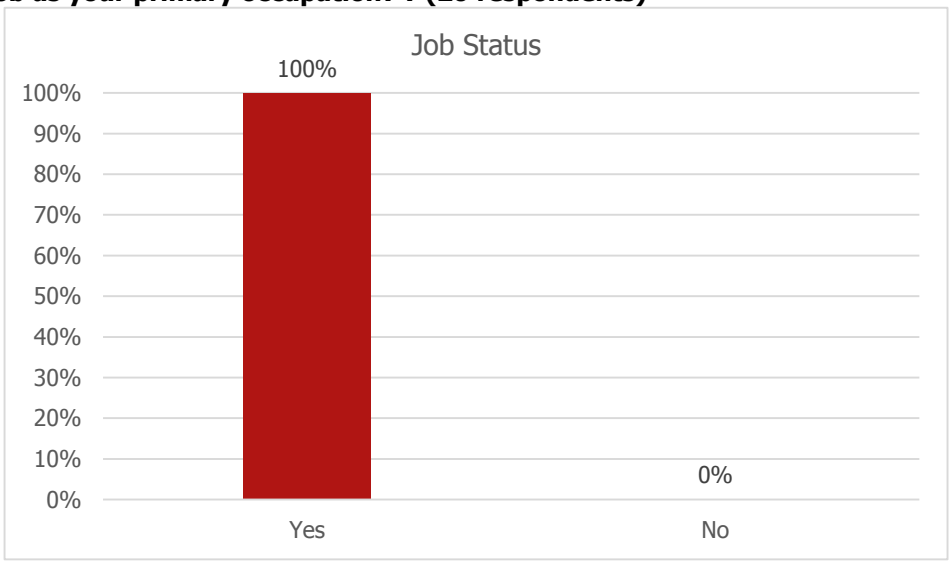
i really enjoyed the program, the faculty were all knowledgeable and very helpful in learn the required skills needed to excel in the veterinary field as a RVT.

I feel an education is what you make of it. Foothill has a tremendous amount of information to offer. Instructors are great.

Vet Tech Alumni Year 1 Survey Results

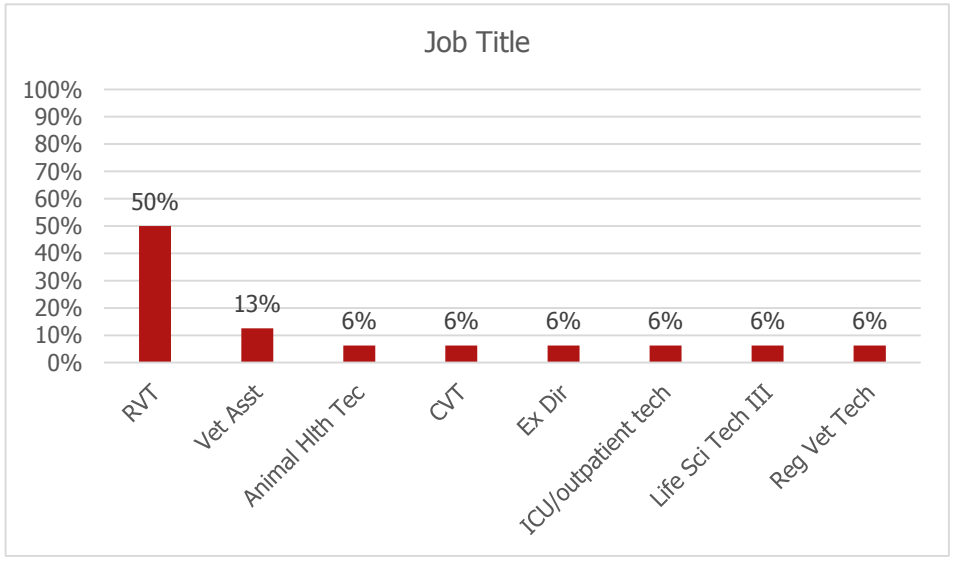
1. Are you currently employed for pay in a veterinary technician-related job as your primary occupation? ? (20 respondents)

Responses	#	%
Yes	20	100%
No	0	0%
Total	20	100%



1.1 What is your job title? (16 respondents)

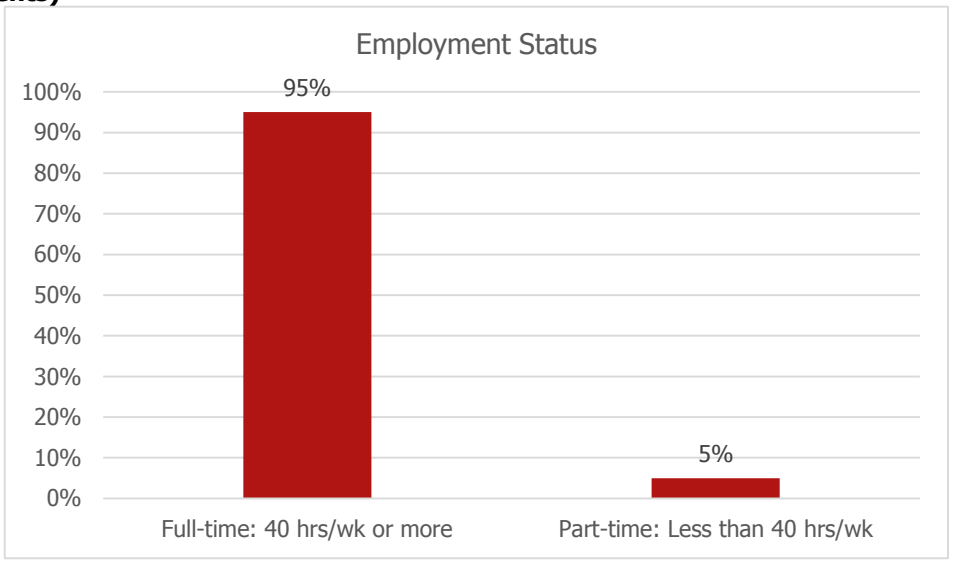
Responses	#	%
RVT	8	50%
Veterinary Assistant	2	13%
Animal Health Technician	1	6%
CVT	1	6%
Executive Director	1	6%
ICU/outpatient technician	1	6%
Life Science Technician III	1	6%
Registered Veterinary Technician	1	6%
Total	16	100%



Vet Tech Alumni Year 1 Survey Results

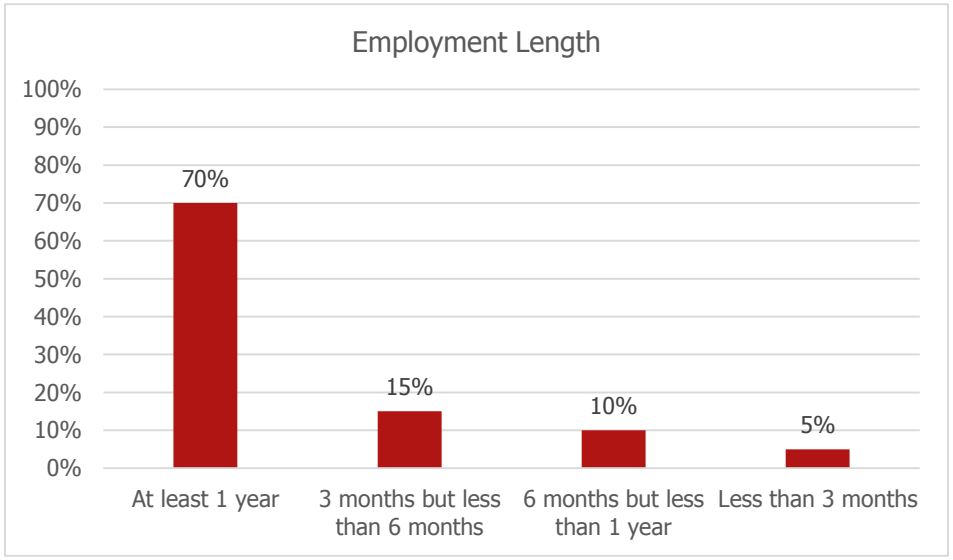
1.2 What is the employment status of your current position? (20 respondents)

Responses	#	%
Full-time: 40 hrs/wk or more	19	95%
Part-time: Less than 40 hrs/wk	1	5%
Total	20	100%



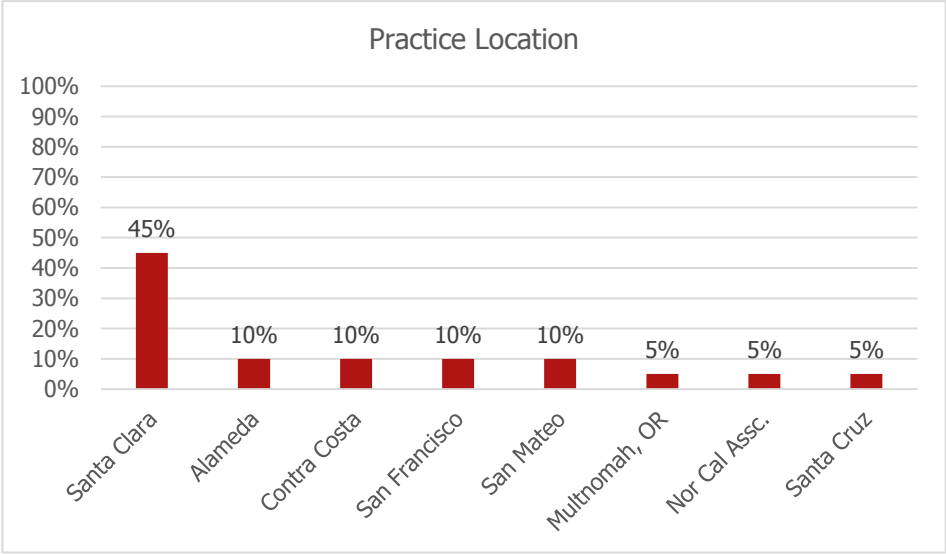
1.3 How long have you been at your current position? (20 respondents)

Responses	#	%
At least 1 year	14	70%
3 months but less than 6 months	3	15%
6 months but less than 1 year	2	10%
Less than 3 months	1	5%
Total	20	100%



1.4 What county is your current position located? (20 respondents)

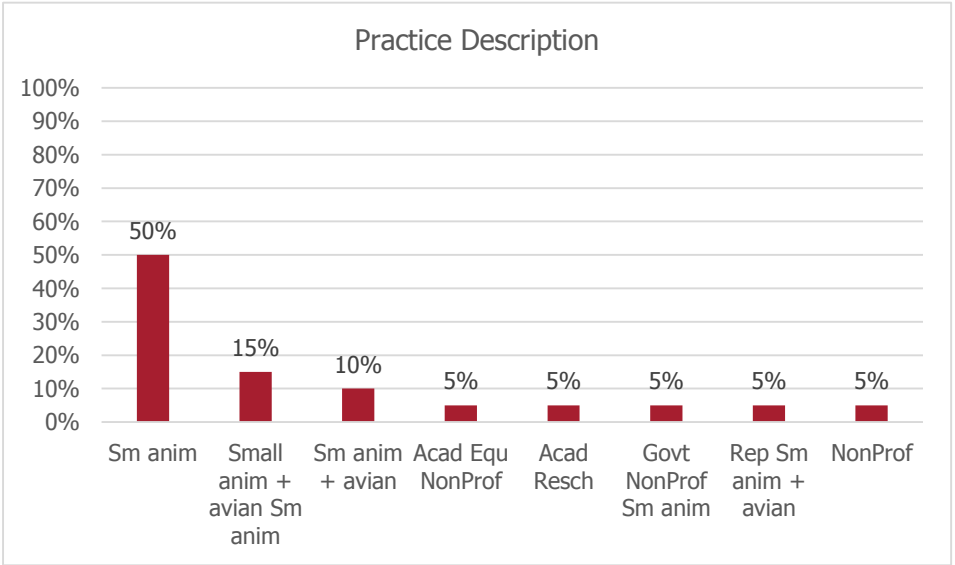
Responses	#	%
Santa Clara	9	45%
Alameda	2	10%
Contra Costa	2	10%
San Francisco	2	10%
San Mateo	2	10%
Multnomah (OREGON)	1	5%
Northern California Association of Equine Practitioners	1	5%
Santa Cruz	1	5%
Total	20	100%



1.5 Which of the following descriptions best describes your current practice? Check all that apply. (20 respondents)

Responses	#	%
Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet	10	50%
Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet, Small animal plus avian	3	15%
Small animal plus avian	2	10%
Academic, Equine exclusive, Not-for-profit organization humane society nature center etc.	1	5%
Academic, Research	1	5%
Government, Not-for-profit organization humane society nature center etc., city shelter, Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet	1	5%
Reptiles, Small animal plus avian	1	5%
Not-for-profit organization humane society nature center	1	5%
Total	20	100%

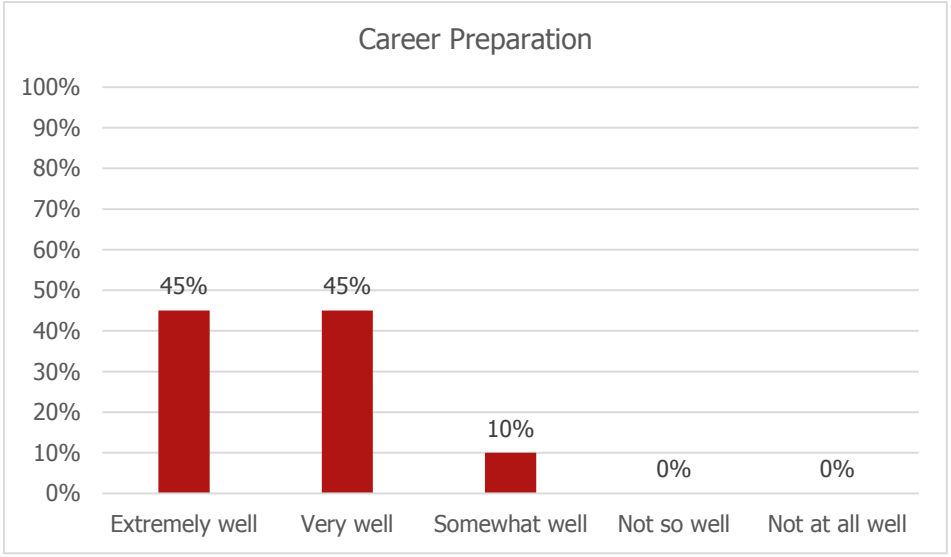
Note: Students could select multiple responses.



Vet Tech Alumni Year 1 Survey Results

1.6 How well did your AVMA-accredited program prepare you for a vet. technology career, whether for pay or as a volunteer? (20 respondents)

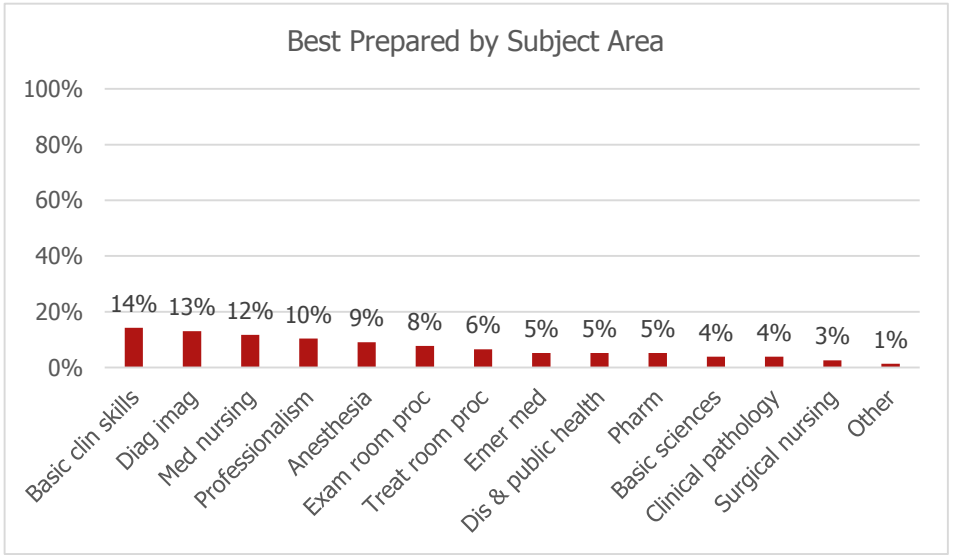
Responses	#	%
Extremely well	9	45%
Very well	9	45%
Somewhat well	2	10%
Not so well	0	0%
Not at all well	0	0%
Total	20	100%



1.7 Which of the following areas do you feel you were the best prepared? Check the top 3 areas. (20 respondents)

Responses	#	%
Basic clinical skills	11	14%
Diagnostic imaging	10	13%
Medical nursing	9	12%
Professionalism	8	10%
Anesthesia	7	9%
Exam room procedures	6	8%
Treatment room procedures	5	6%
Emergency medicine	4	5%
Animal diseases and public health	4	5%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	4	5%
Basic sciences	3	4%
Clinical pathology	3	4%
Surgical nursing	2	3%
Other: Random Dr. Mac facts	1	1%
Total	77	100%

Note: Students could select multiple responses.

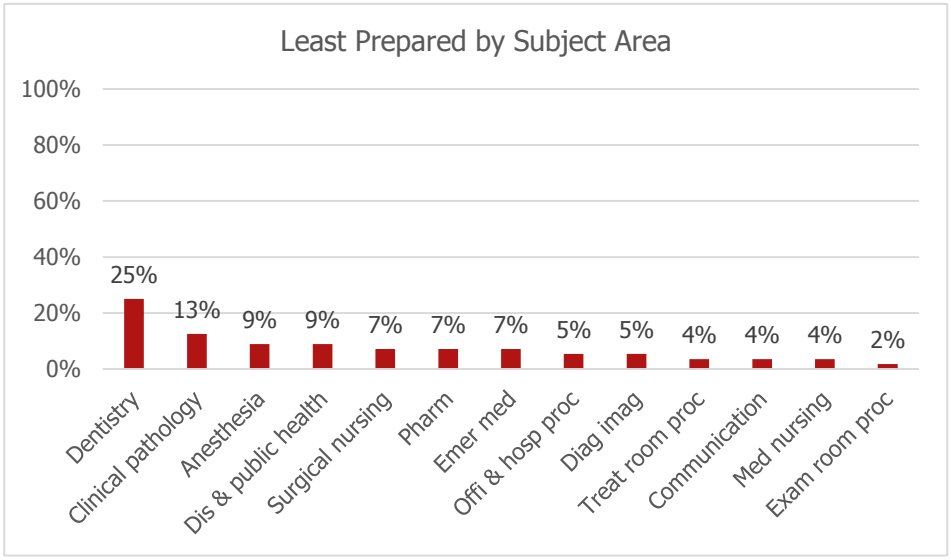


Vet Tech Alumni Year 1 Survey Results

1.8 Which of the following areas do you feel you were less prepared? Check the top 3 areas. (19 respondents)

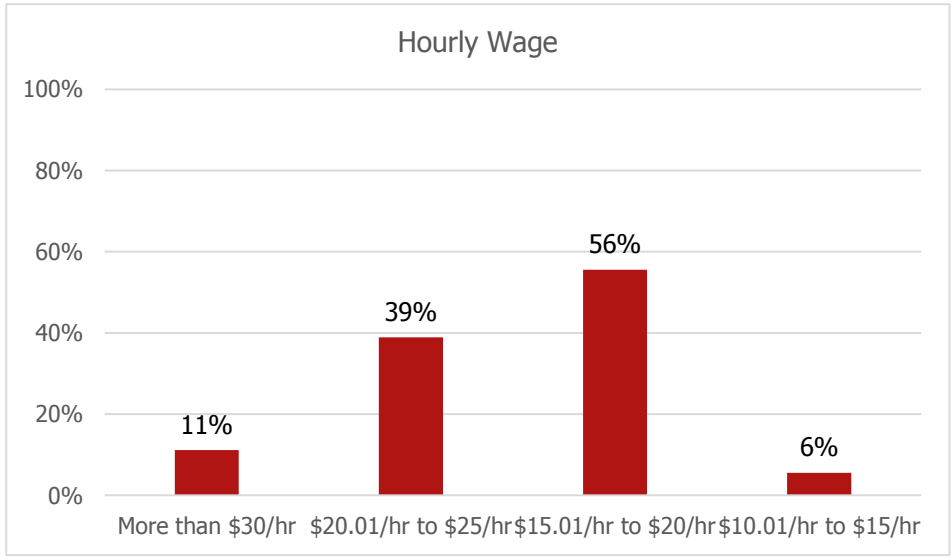
Responses	#	%
Dentistry	14	25%
Clinical pathology	7	13%
Anesthesia	5	9%
Animal diseases and public health	5	9%
Surgical nursing	4	7%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	4	7%
Emergency medicine	4	7%
Office and hospital procedures	3	5%
Diagnostic imaging	3	5%
Treatment room procedures	2	4%
Interpersonal communication skills	2	4%
Medical nursing	2	4%
Exam room procedures	1	2%
Total	56	100%

Note: Students could select multiple responses.



1.9 What is the hourly wage at your current position? (20 respondents)

Responses	#	%
More than $30/hr	2	11%
$20.01/hr to $25/hr	7	39%
$15.01/hr to $20/hr	10	56%
$10.01/hr to $15/hr	1	6%
Total	18	100%

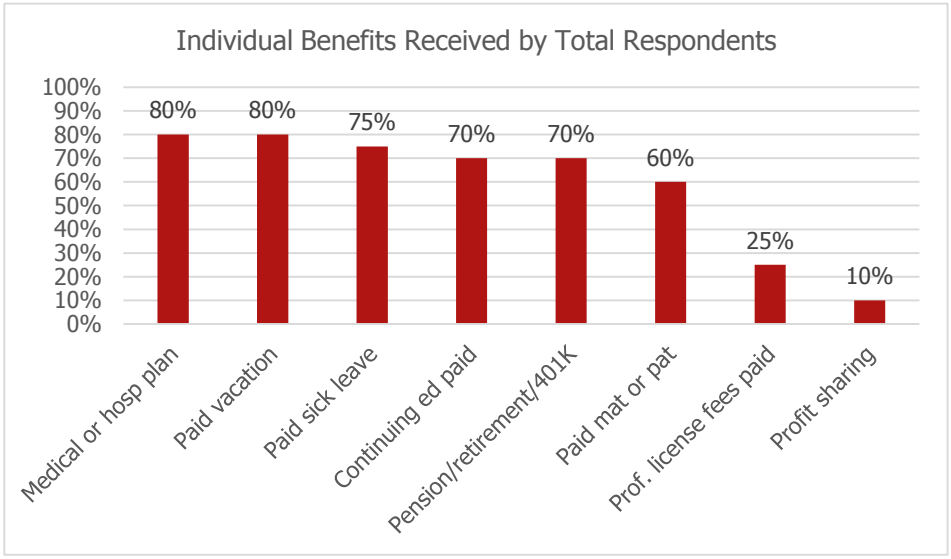


Vet Tech Alumni Year 1 Survey Results

1.10 Indicate whether your position includes any of the following benefits. Check all that apply. (20 respondents)

Responses	#	%
Medical or hospitalization plan	16	80%
Paid vacation	16	80%
Paid sick leave	15	75%
Continuing education paid	14	70%
Pension/retirement/401K	14	70%
Paid maternity or paternity leave	12	60%
Professional license fees or dues paid	5	25%
Profit sharing	2	10%

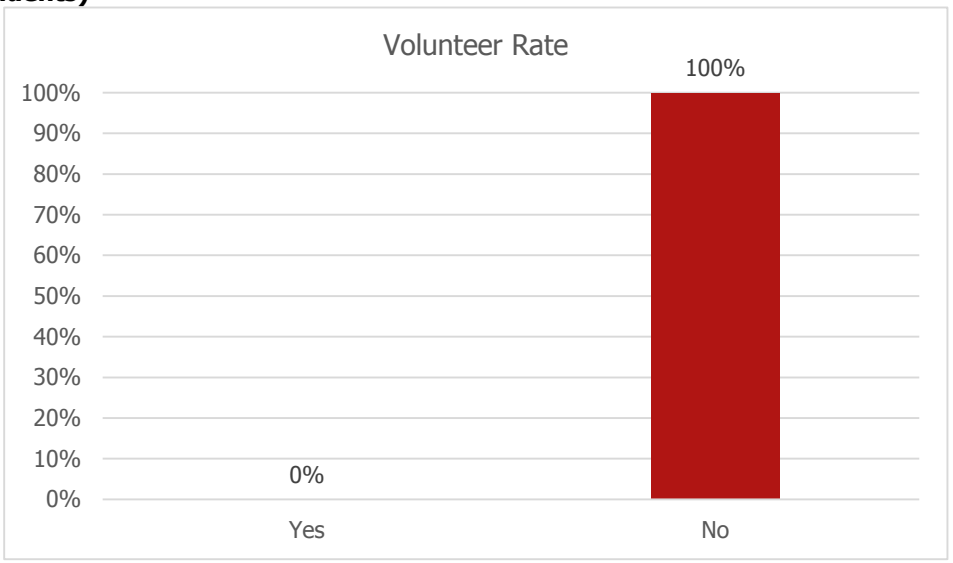
Note: Students could select multiple responses.



Vet Tech Alumni Year 1 Survey Results

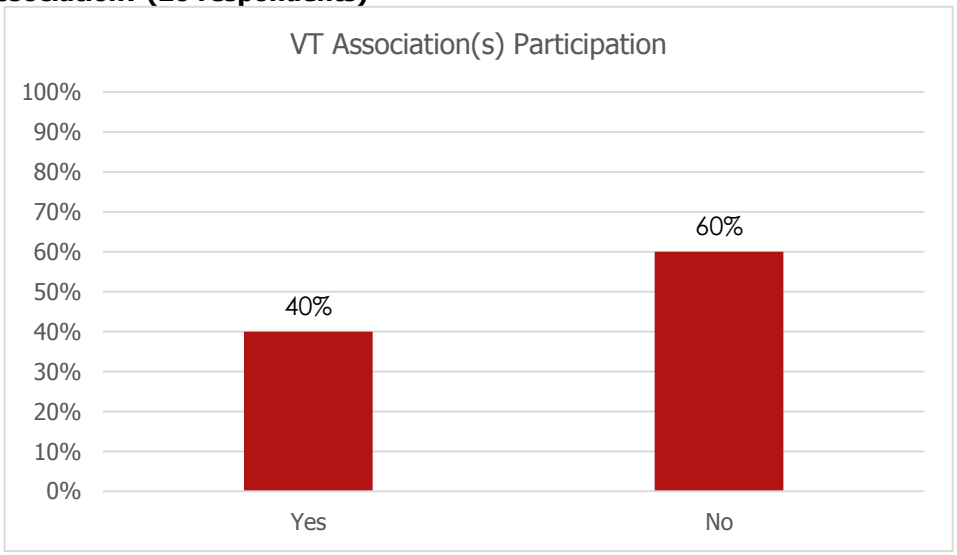
2. Do you volunteer in a veterinary technician-related position (20 respondents)

Responses	#	%
Yes	0	0%
No	20	100%
Total	20	100%



3. Are you currently a member of an organized veterinary or technician association? (20 respondents)

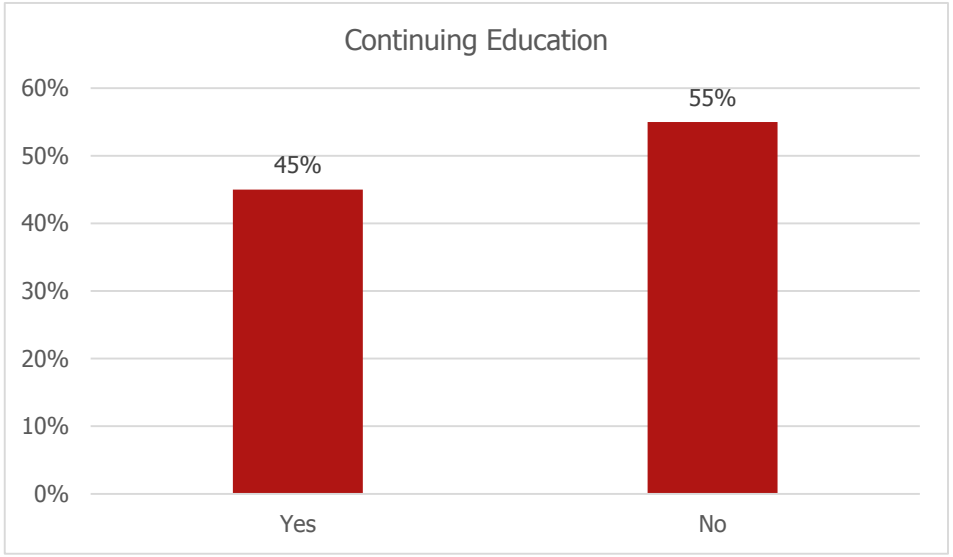
Responses	#	%
Yes	8	40%
No	12	60%
Total	20	100%



Vet Tech Alumni Year 1 Survey Results

4. Have you attended at least one continuing education symposium since leaving school? (20 respondents)

Responses	#	%
Yes	9	45%
No	11	55%
Total	20	100%



4.1. List the subject area(s) of your continuing education. (8 of 9 respondents)

"Anesthesia"
"Anesthesia and analgesia, exotics medicine, avian medicine"
"Anesthesia, dentistry, pharmacology, internal medicine"
"Assorted"
"Behavior"
"Equine Medicine Office Practices "
"Medicine"
"PACVET: anesthesia"

Vet Tech Alumni Year 1 Survey Results

5. List any Veterinary Technology subject areas where better preparation would have been helpful professionally.

Animal diseases and medical math (focusing CRI's)
Clinical pathology Emergency Pharmacology
Dentistry
dentistry (specifically including extractions), intubating, blood draws, catheter placement (on live animals)
DENTISTRY! ANESTHESIA! What to do during an anesthetic emergency, surgical monitoring, dental extractions, pharmacology
Dentistry.
Foothill RVT program is great but some areas like anesthesia or surgical nursing and emergency med just comes from experience. I feel I got a really great introduction to all those topics but I felt like there was no way I could have been better prepared for these aspects of vet med other than through clinical experiences.
I would have liked better skills as using the ultrasound
Pathology and imaging.
Pharmacology. Given the enormous range of currently-used medications, the myriad of contraindications, and possible interaction with other medications or IVF, I honestly would have liked another quarter's worth of instruction.
Spent more time on blood draws, looking in ears through otoscope

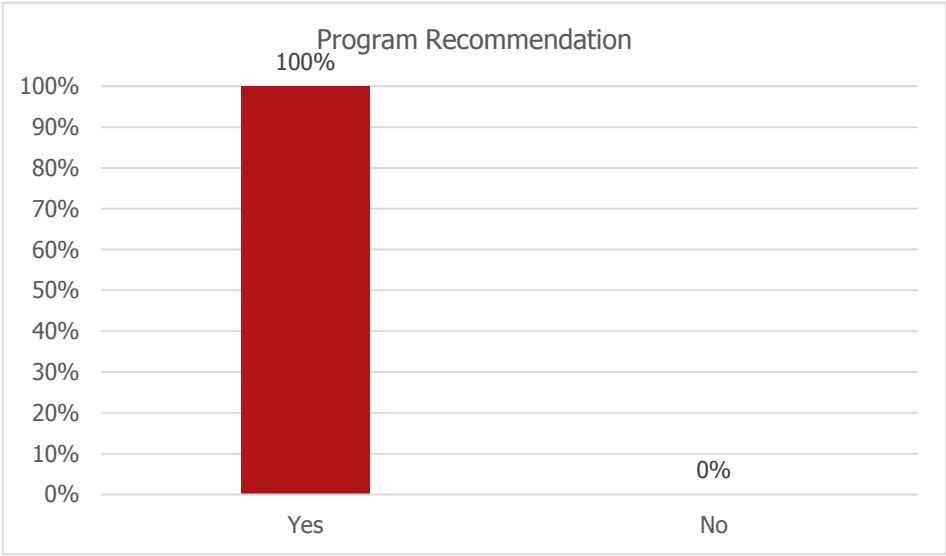
6. List any suggestions on how the Veterinary Technology program can help prepare students to enter the field.

Continue bringing non-veterinary personnels in for students to work on client education skills. Client communication in emergency and/or sensitive situations.
Continuing education. I realized after earning my license that I had absolutely no idea how to go about recording/logging my hours spent in CE or how to prove I had attended. It may well have been mentioned, but I was entirely too stressed toward the end of the program about the ever-looming VTNE. I also can't recommend vettechprep.com enough. If other students' brains work anything like mine, this website will be fantastic for them. Rather than staring at the huge number of review/prep books and wondering how on earth I was going to memorize them all, vettechprep gave me a framework to follow that helped enormously.
Handling techniques.
I think this program did a great job on preparing students.
It is great that we were taught so much detail on why images should be taken in certain ways but the lack of hands-on application left me woefully unprepared for the workforce.
It was a great program I felt like I knew a lot after graduating and felt more confident in clinic but maybe more internship time would have made the transition even smoother.
More hands-on practice with live animals would help immensely. And more specific requirements for skills that should be practiced at internship sites could help as well.
Much more focus on dentistry and technical skills. Better prep for surgeries and common meds for common problems etc.
Practice blood draws from different sites, placing real IVC
Really drill in pharmacology, it is so important to know your drugs

Vet Tech Alumni Year 1 Survey Results

7. Would you recommend Foothill College's Veterinary Technology program to others?

Responses	#	%
Yes	20	100%
No	0	0%
Total	20	100%



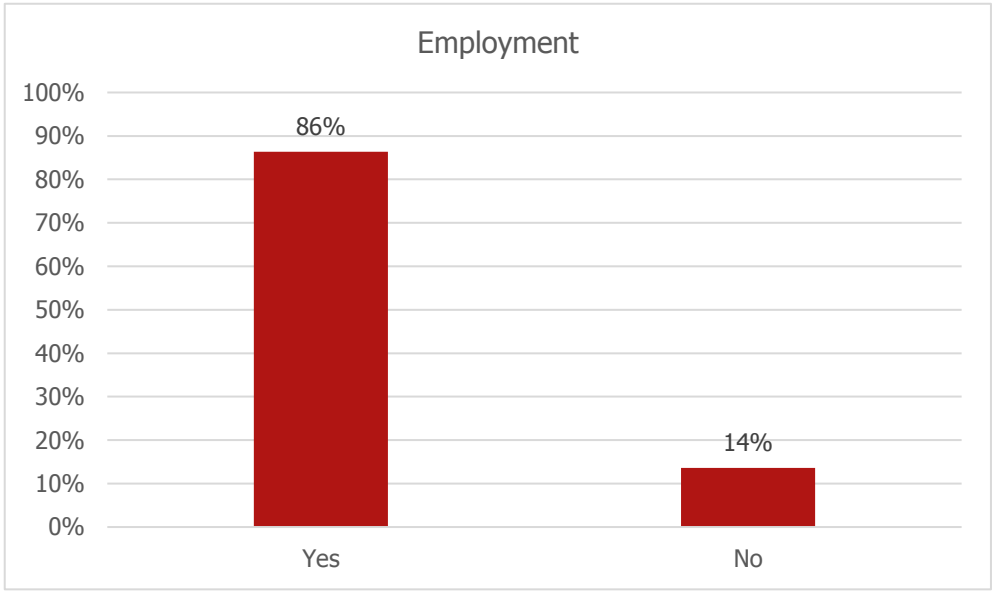
Please explain your response.

Foothill helped prepare me immensely for the field. I am grateful for everything I learned during my time at foothill!
Going out into the real world I didn't realize how well known foothill students really were, it really helps you get a job and a lot of clinics look for foothill students to hire. Also foothill has connections with good people in different fields with in vet techs, so it gives the students the opportunity to get into jobs that are hard to get. I would highly reccomend this program for whoever is interested
Great instructors, learning environment and curriculum.
I really enjoyed my time in the program and felt that I learned a lot. I do wish we had more hands on experience.
If you sent out an email saying that you now offered a 4-year version of the program, I'd sign up immediately. It was such a good program that I still miss the teachers and all the knowledge you guys imparted upon us even a year later.
It gave me my dream career!
It's a better option than anywhere else
It's a fabulous course!
The program really educated me about the field as a whole. I am often complimented by the doctors about the level of information I have and it is all because of the program.
This program was very beneficial. All of the teachers were either techs or DVMs and that helped a lot—they knew what they were talking about and what to expect in practice. Everyone was very knowledgeable and helpful. Having the animals at the school to practice on helped out a lot too.

Vet Tech Alumni Year 3 Survey 2018 Results

1. Are you currently employed for pay in a veterinary technician-related job as your primary occupation? (22 respondents)

Response	#	%
Yes	19	86%
No	3	14%
Total	22	100%



(Not in VT related job)

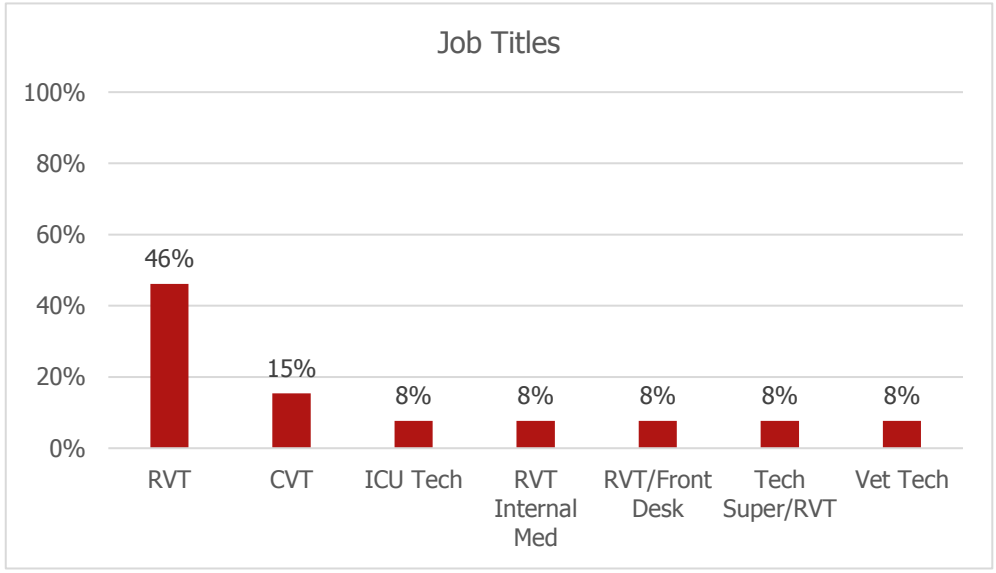
1.1. What is your current employment status?

Not working looking for work	1
Not working not looking for work	1
Student whether employed or not	1

(In VT related job)

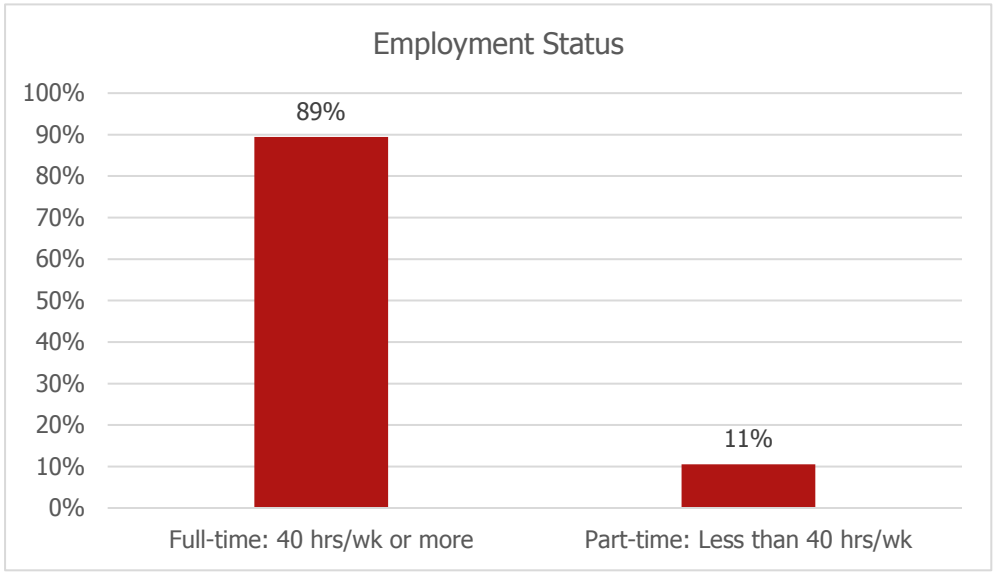
1.1 What is your job title? (13 respondents)

Response	#	%
RVT	6	46%
CVT	2	15%
ICU technician	1	8%
RVT in Internal Medicine	1	8%
RVT/Front Desk	1	8%
Technician Supervisor/RVT	1	8%
Vet tech	1	8%
Total	13	100%



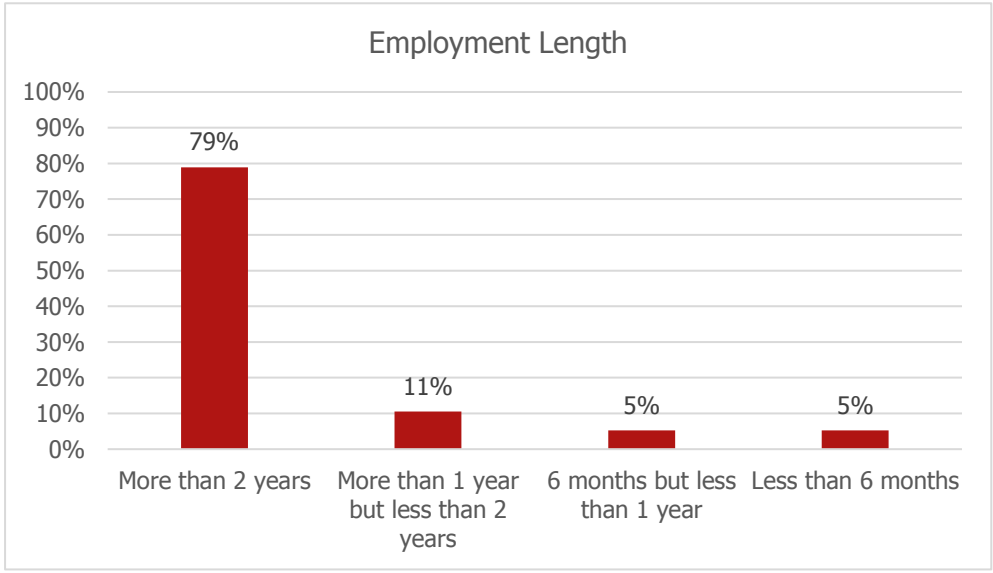
1.2 What is the employment status of your current position? (19 respondents)

Response	#	%
Full-time: 40 hrs/wk or more	17	89%
Part-time: Less than 40 hrs/wk	2	11%
Total	19	100%



1.3 How long have you been at your current position? (19 respondents)

Response	#	%
More than 2 years	15	79%
More than 1 year but less than 2 years	2	11%
6 months but less than 1 year	1	5%
Less than 6 months	1	5%
Total	19	100%



1.4 What county is your current position located? (19 respondents)

Response	#	%
Santa Clara	5	26%
San Francisco	4	21%
Alameda	2	11%
Contra Costa	2	11%
Other	2	11%
San Mateo	2	11%
Marin	1	5%
Santa Cruz	1	5%
Total	19	100%

Other Locations:
Dane
Sherwood, OR

1.5 Which of the following descriptions best describes your current practice? Check all that apply. (18 respondents)

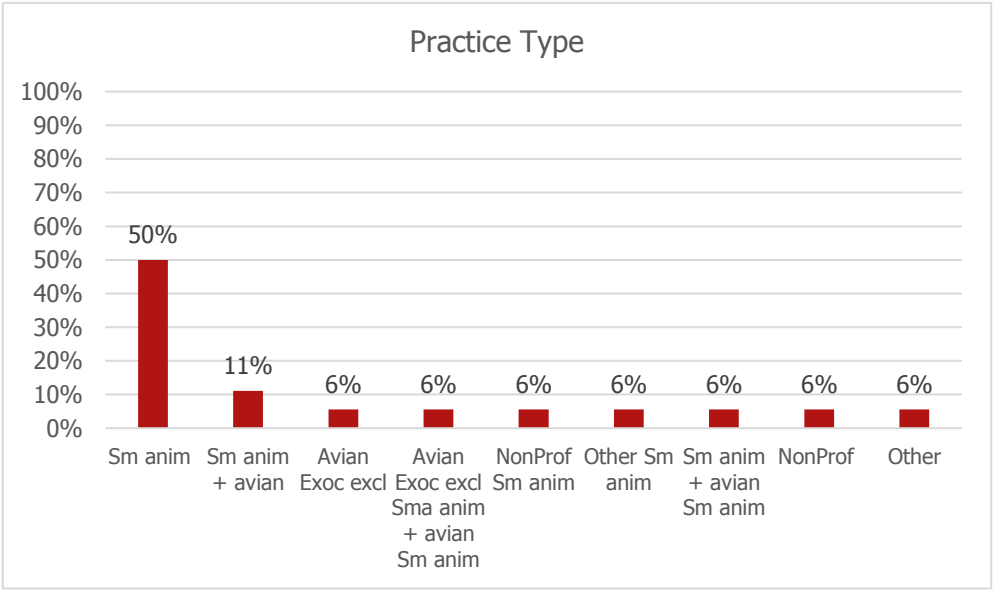
Response	#	%
Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet	9	50%
Small animal plus avian	2	11%
Avian exclusive, Exotic exclusive	1	6%
Avian exclusive, Exotic exclusive, Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet, Small animal plus avian	1	6%
Not-for-profit organization humane society nature center etc., Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet	1	6%
Other, Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet	1	6%
Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet, Small animal plus avian	1	6%
Not-for-profit organization humane society nature center etc.	1	6%
Other	1	6%
Total	18	100%

Note: Students could select multiple responses.

Other Responses:

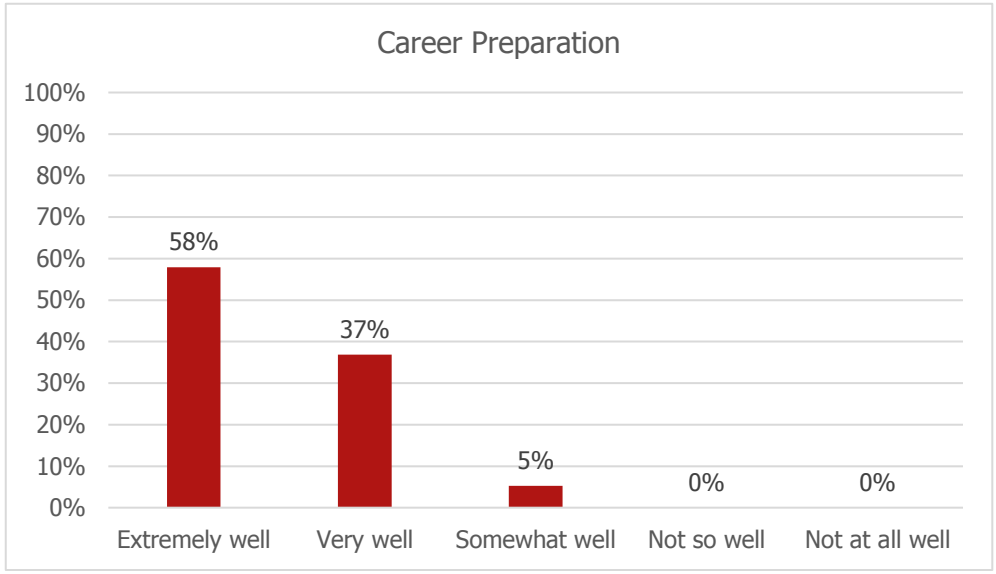
"Dog and cat only"

"Small animal, avian and exotics"



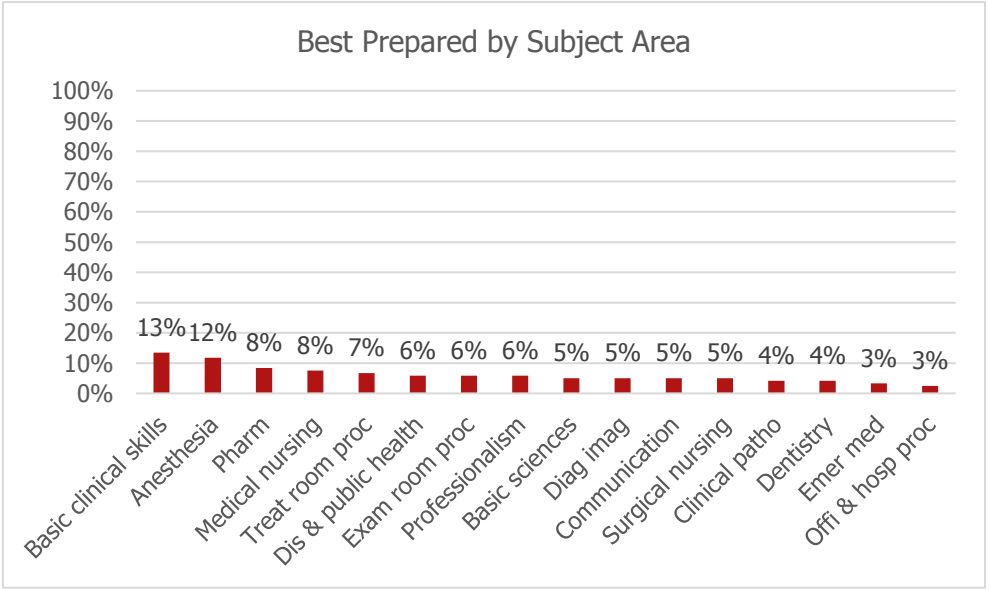
1.6 How well did your AVMA-accredited program prepare you for a veterinary technology career, whether for pay or as a volunteer? (19 respondents)

Response	#	%
Extremely well	11	58%
Very well	7	37%
Somewhat well	1	5%
Not so well	0	0%
Not at all well	0	0%
Total	19	100%



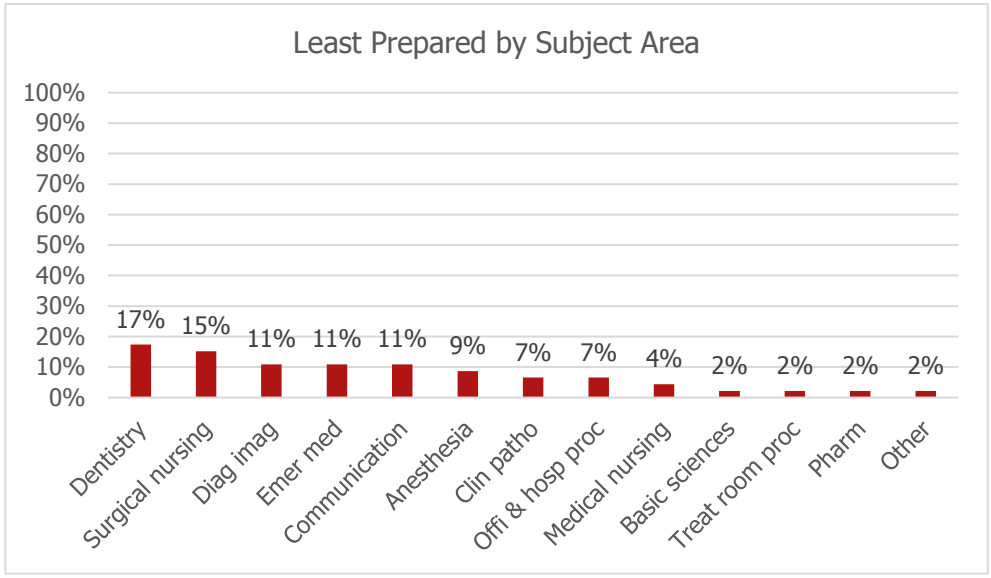
1.7 Which of the following areas do you feel you were the best prepared? Check the top 3 areas. (19 respondents)

Response	#	%
Basic clinical skills	16	13%
Anesthesia	14	12%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	10	8%
Medical nursing	9	8%
Treatment room procedures	8	7%
Animal diseases and public health	7	6%
Exam room procedures	7	6%
Professionalism	7	6%
Basic sciences	6	5%
Diagnostic imaging	6	5%
Interpersonal communication skills	6	5%
Surgical nursing	6	5%
Clinical pathology	5	4%
Dentistry	5	4%
Emergency medicine	4	3%
Office and hospital procedures	3	3%
Total	119	100%



1.8 Which of the following areas do you feel you were less prepared? Check the top 3 areas. (18 respondents)

Response	#	%
Dentistry	8	17%
Surgical nursing	7	15%
Diagnostic imaging	5	11%
Emergency medicine	5	11%
Interpersonal communication skills	5	11%
Anesthesia	4	9%
Clinical pathology	3	7%
Office and hospital procedures	3	7%
Medical nursing	2	4%
Basic sciences	1	2%
Treatment room procedures	1	2%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	1	2%
Other	1	2%
Total	46	100%

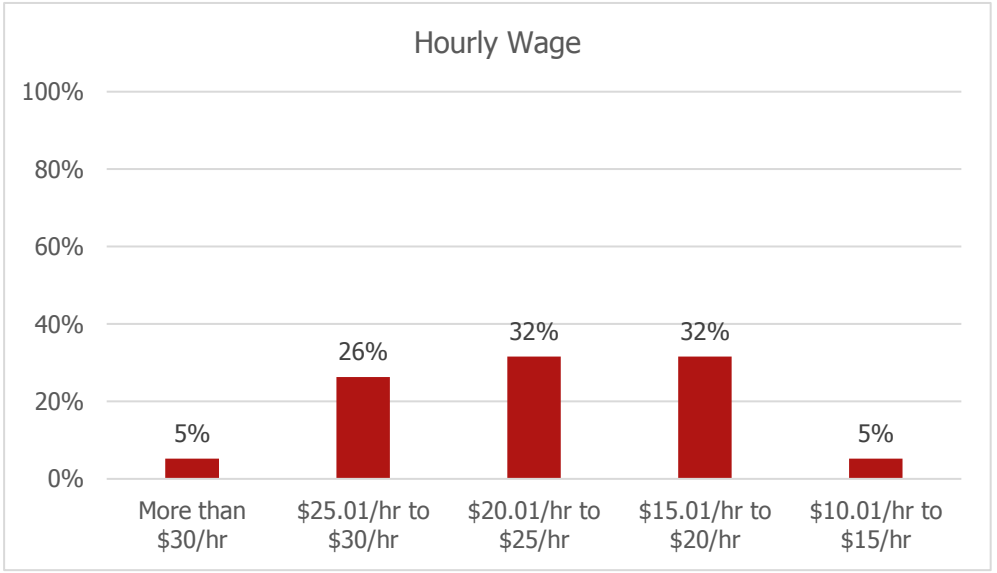


Other responses:

Hard for me to choose the least. All topics were covered well. For anesthesia I wish I learned more about emergency care if something happens to a pet under anesthesia. Pharmacology was not my strong suit because it's hard for me to memorize so many medications.

1.9 What is the hourly wage at your current position (19 respondents)

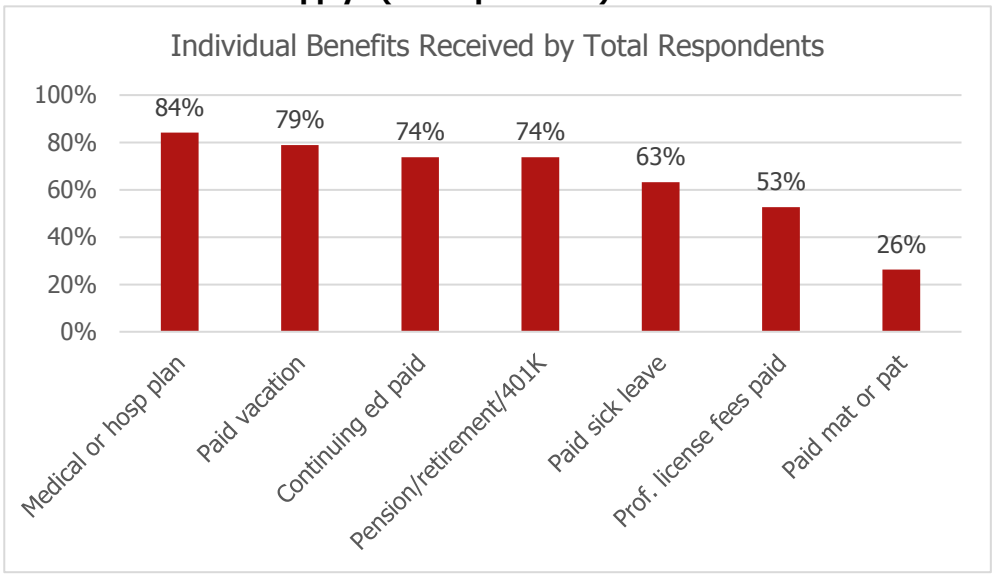
Response	#	%
More than $30/hr	1	5%
$25.01/hr to $30/hr	5	26%
$20.01/hr to $25/hr	6	32%
$15.01/hr to $20/hr	6	32%
$10.01/hr to $15/hr	1	5%
Total	19	100%



1.10 Indicate whether your position includes any of the following benefits. Check all that apply. (19 respondents)

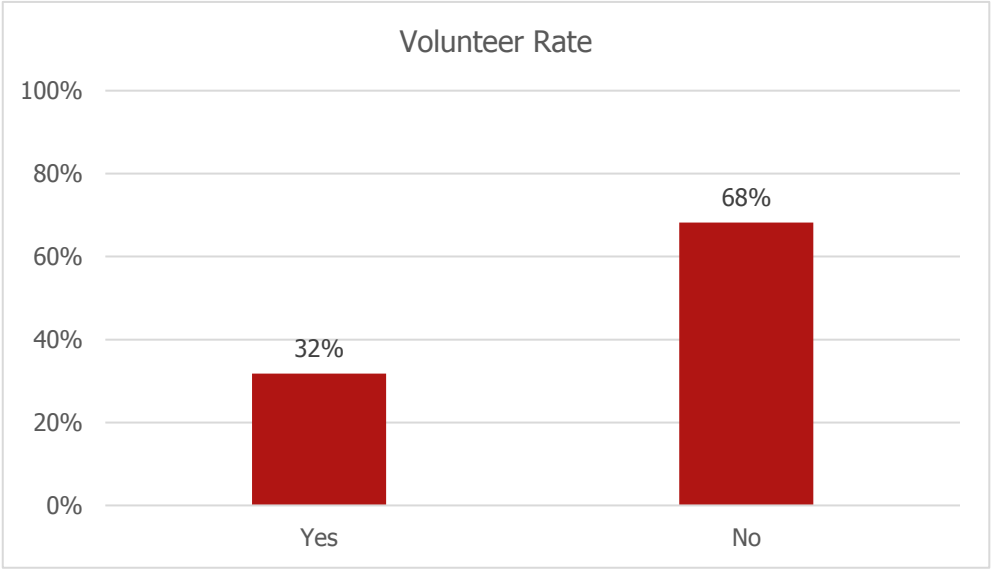
Response	#	%
Medical or hospitalization plan	16	84%
Paid vacation	15	79%
Continuing education paid	14	74%
Pension/retirement/401K	14	74%
Paid sick leave	12	63%
Professional license fees or dues paid	10	53%
Paid maternity or paternity leave	5	26%

Note: Students could select multiple responses.



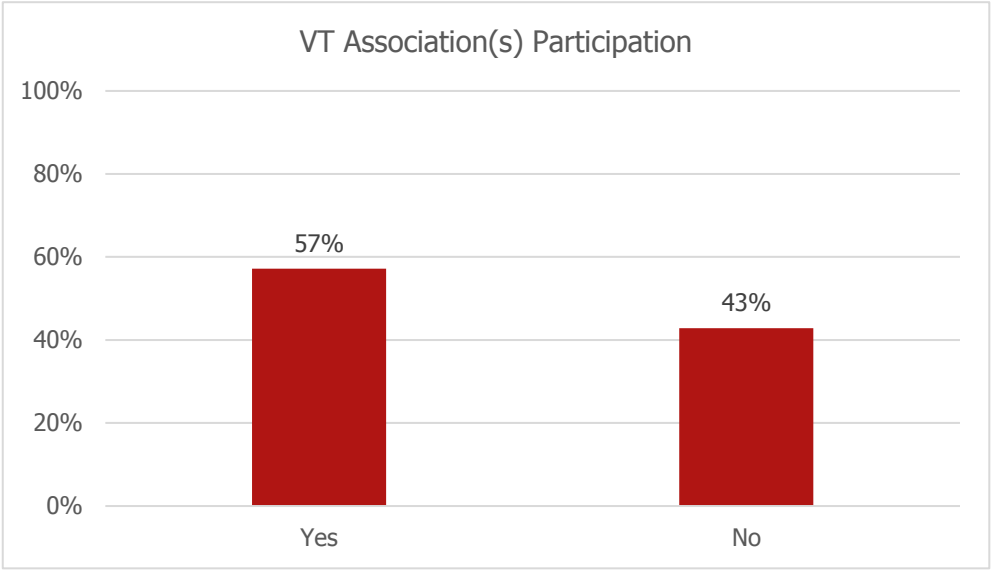
2. Do you volunteer in a veterinary technician-related position? (22 respondents)

Response	#	%
Yes	7	32%
No	15	68%
Total	22	100%



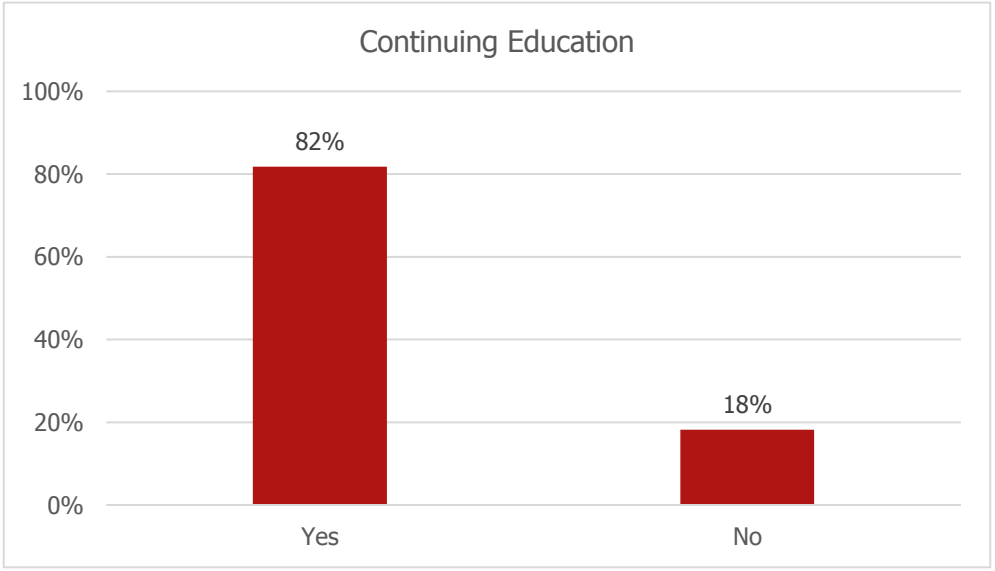
3. Are you currently a member of an organized veterinary or technician association? (21 respondents)

Response	#	%
Yes	12	57%
No	9	43%
Total	21	100%



4. Have you attended at least one continuing education symposium since leaving school? (22 respondents)

Response	#	%
Yes	18	82%
No	4	18%
Total	22	100%



4.1. List the subject area(s) of your continuing education. (16 respondents)

Anesthesia, behavior, pharm

anesthesia feline hyperthyroidism interpersonal communication skills in the workplace

Anesthesia in exotic animals, laboratory procedures, senior dog care, emergency.

Anesthesia Ophthalmology Review of Basic skills: reading ECG, identifying abnormal heart rhythms, pharmacology, CPR, etc

Anesthesia, orthopedics, equine, and ophthalmology

Anesthesia, pain management, hospital management, dentistry

Dentistry, Anesthesia, Analgesia, Emergency Medicine, Exotics

Dentistry, emergency, other

Emergency medicine, fear free, exotic medicine

emergency, general practice/variety

Feline stress relief in practice Anesthesia Dental

Parisitology Toxicity Renal failure in cats Pain management

Rehabilitation, hospice and palliative care, and Low stress handling

SAGE symposium, dental related conferences

Variety

Zoonotic Disease Outbreaks, Valley Fever Vaccine Development, Compassion Fatigue, Western Veterinary Conference

5. List any Veterinary Technology subject areas where better preparation would have been helpful professionally.

Anesthesia monitoring, pharmacology should be more than 1 quarter

avian/exotics radiology - that whole class needed to be revamped - the laboratory part was helpful, but the lecture was not.

Dental radiographs

Dentistry and diagnostic imaging

Emergency procedures and better dentistry techniques.

Exotics, basic interactions with clients, understanding the flow of most hospitals and more large animal of possible.

Foothill college educates so well that when I started my job it was much easier then expected. I was definitely learning day by day and continuing to educate myself with new things that occur. We do not do any blood smears at my location but I feel like I needed more help with clinical pathology. It does take me some time to remember certain things, but overall the VT program does a really good job to prepare you as much as possible.

I think the prerequisite courses should be confined to sciences for science majors so that there are not students with weak science backgrounds trying to cram in complicated subject matter without a foundation. Doing this allows the courses to delve deeper into concepts.

Large animal

More large animal medicine, especially restraint and examination techniques. Maybe more opportunities for students with an interest in pursuing at VTS to shadow a technician or a DVM who has completed training in a specialized area.

More time with laboratory and clinical skills, understanding and being able to differentiate pathology slides.

NA

None - my challenge has been interacting with vet techs who are excited about all they can do WITHOUT schooling - and see my willingness to share my training as showing off. Workplace issues I've encountered have been related to the career field in general, not any type of deficient preparation.

Ophthalmology Pharmacology Clinical Pathology Anesthesia: Ventilator, paralytic agents

Pharmacology - needs to be current on the medications used in clinics

Pharmacology Emergency Medicine

There is no subject area where better preparation would have been helpful (for the most part). I felt very prepared for the positions I held after I graduated. I think that if a student took full advantage of the program in terms of classes and resources then a student would be fully prepared as far as being able to fulfill the duties of the job.

visualizing organs/unusual artifacts in ultrasound (noticing any abnormalities while performing cystocentesis to alert DVM), various isolation protection/tools/techniques (i.e. protect from urine contact in a leptospirosis patient), more variations in restraint/difficult patient handling (utilizing towels/blankets with less man-handling, less is more, being patient with anxious patients...etc.)

6. List any suggestions on how the Veterinary Technology program can help prepare students to enter the field.

Be prepared to be bold. "Vet techs like to eat their young" is a phrase I saw on a website, and I've learned the hard way that it holds true. A lot of people who didn't go to school harbor grudges against those who do, and will try to bully green technicians out of the industry, especially if you move to a state without the strict title protections that California has in place.

Considering all that I have read and researched regarding why people leave veterinary medicine, I think it would have been useful to have a class where students are informed as to some of the problems they might encounter and how to deal with them. This class might address many of the reasons why people leave veterinary medicine which are written about on many vet med blogs and websites. If these are addressed, maybe the retention can be higher in the vet med community. Some of these reasons might include addressing toxic work culture in vet med, addressing rampant gossip and cliques, bullying on the job by other techs, other techs coming to work high and drunk and what to do when these intoxicated techs are allowed to take care of animals, what to do if you see other staff stealing from your workplace (without being ostracized by others), compassion fatigue, how to deal with doing euthanasia constantly, dealing with difficult clients, communicating appropriately with vets as a tech, how to deal with long work hours, and of course money. I know no one wants to talk about money since we get to get to work with animals but it should be discussed. It's like a taboo in vet med, no one can talk about money but everyone complains that they are underpaid. All of these aforementioned issues I have heard about, read about, or experienced so I know this is not exaggeration or hyperbole. It is obviously not the fault of the Foothill Program, these are things you learn about after you graduate but it would be advantageous to learn about them before you graduate.

Emphasize on work ethics, importance of team work and understanding the need and ability to cross train. Some people who have interned or were in working interviews claim and mislead the work place that they have experience when they truly do not (no student of Foothill, but just in general). Also, low- stress handling especially for cats handling and restraint techniques (only scruff when absolutely necessary but lean towards calmer methods of taking cat carriers apart rather than pull them out of carriers). These areas are of such high importance and value to better the profession and provide better care for our patients.

Give more hands on practice with certain procedures.

Happy to see the article on Goat Yoga - I think a bit of inoculation against stress and some tips on stress management would be beneficial, given the statistics on suicide in the veterinary field.

Honestly, they do a good job. If someone does not like there intern places they make the effort to try to find you a new place so you can have the learning experience you need. They do not mess around and tell you how serious of a job it is. Being a RVT is not for everybody and they get you prepared for what's to come. After being in the field for a few years, you continue to grow and get better. There is always ways to improve and to keep growing, but Foothill college VT program does it's best to educate must as possible so your ready to go on the field.

I think that there should be more emphasis on emergency medicine, because even though I work in general practice we still have emergencies come in all the time unexpectedly. It's something that needs to be really ingrained, making sure the basics are not forgotten. Also dentistry has really taken off and I had to learn to take dental radiographs at the location I worked at, which we spent time in school doing, but it's tough to master. Maybe more time can be dedicated to practicing dental rads.

I think we as a group need to discuss stress in the work place. Proper out reach groups and other resources for individuals who suffer from depression.

Increase intern hours but less classes for the quarter would be less overwhelming. Maybe make program 2.5 years long. Or turn to bachelor program.

keep current with common ailments/issues seen locally,(i.e. foxtails, amanita, leptospirosis...etc.), learn client communication (i.e. client triage if an animal is very stable but a client may be more very concerned, explaining stable/common symptoms to calm a client, but also learning when to get help from a more experienced technician or doctor), learning to trust your gut if something doesn't feel right (i.e. stable patient, ADR but combination of symptoms may be potentially more serious...etc.)

More hands on experience at school with related coursework would help out in the field.

More Patrice questions out of our field like large animal

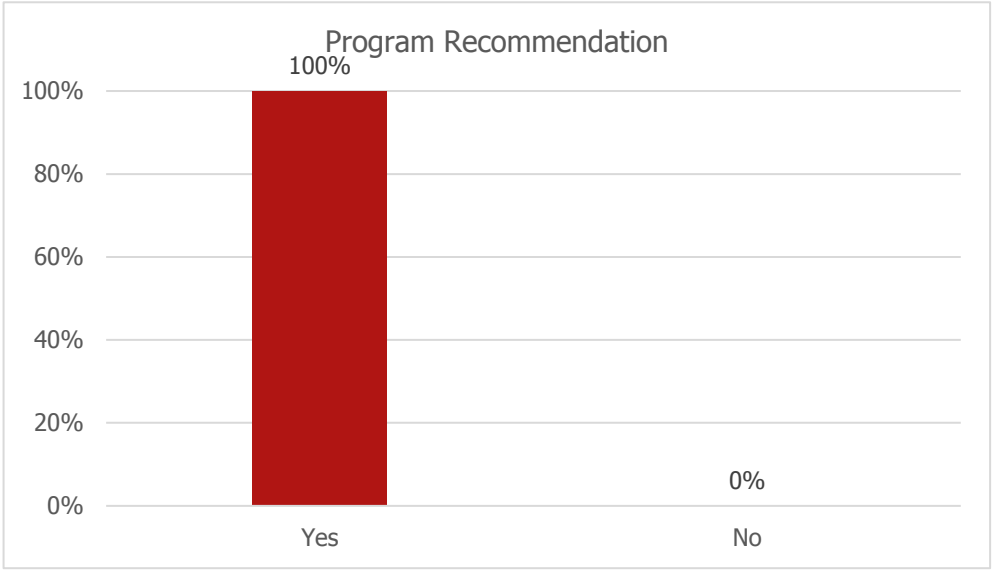
Rethink the prerequisite courses. Try to have the program parallel human nursing.

The veterinary technology program is great at helping students be prepared in the field with the basics, such as anatomy, terminology, restraint and basic care to name a few. However, I felt that the coverage in hands on advance skills were very limited. In example, learning the physical process of a prophylactic dental cleaning was only covered in 2 classes from what I remember.

Veterinary medicine overall needs to catch up on the interpersonal skills, and helping create well-rounded CVTs who are able to effectively communicate and modulate themselves. Veterinary medicine can be a highly emotional and stressful practice, and CVTs need to be taught ways to handle that in a professional setting, as well as take care of themselves outside of it. Perhaps an outside-the-VT-program professor in psychology could teach a required course for students on ways to deal with emotions, set good boundaries, and respectfully deal with their coworkers. This is AS important as the medical aspect.

7. Would you recommend Foothill College's Veterinary Technology program to others?

Response	#	%
Yes	22	100%
No	0	0%
Total	22	100%



Please explain your response:

As rigorous, stressful, and emotional as this program is; I felt well prepared for what RVT life was going to be like. This program gave me confidence as a veterinary professional and the knowledge to keep up with current veterinary medicine related news. And I just have to the students and the instructors were an amazing support group!

Attending the Foothill RVT program was the best decision I ever made. The instructors were wonderful and were very supportive, knowledgeable and personal. School tends to be challenging for me but I do well in that setting. Being in the real world in the veterinary field, it's hard for me to access or apply what I've learned as it is just a different setting.

Best program in comparison to others currently out there in bay area. Really prepared me for my profession, allowed appropriate hands on lab interactions (only wish we had more time divided among students so everyone can get some experience) and professors like Dr. MacDougall, Dr. Eshman, Dr.Peter's, Ms.Gregory, Ms. Terry, and Ms. Depaolo were all such great mentors, and many newcomers as well. The availability of office hours significantly help when students were able to utilize them. Dr. Eshman really dedicated time to help students gain more access to working with large animals, and I hope that continues. Program is not nearly as expensive and considered affordable with realistic goals for their students. I highly recommend many potential students who seek interest in the field. Thank you again!

Foothill College offers a great Veterinary Technology program that is well balanced in studies and hands on skills especially in a school that has a reasonable tuition fee.

Foothill is a great program and it prepares you incredibly well for all technical aspects of the job. The faculty and staff are awesome.

Foothill's program is top-notch when it comes to the knowledge base. I was able to discuss pharmacology and drug interactions with my former boss on a level that most veterinary staff don't possess.

Great mixture of academic learning, hands-on skills development, clinical internships, build-up of knowledge and expertise - all with tremendous staff support. Thank you, Foothill VT staff for a memorable experience!

Great program

I feel that Foothill gave a very well rounded and grounded background to help me succeed in the veterinary field. I think compared to colleagues who went through either vocational school training or on the job training, I started off with a more thorough platform when I was "entry level" which gave me advantages to learn and adapt more quickly in the real world environment.

I have recommended foothill college VT program to many people. Some do not know there is a program there and I tell them to please look it up. It definitely got me prepared. I know some people who have went to the other VT programs like Carrington and they felt they were not educated enough and is in debt because it's expensive. I understand some do not want to do the pre-requirements but it is worth it. You pay less than you would if went to carrington.

I think Foothill is the best program around. I see students from the other programs and they don't know as much as Foothill students do.

It is a great program and all the instructors take their time to help, everyone genuinely loves what they're doing. Just need to have more hands on work with live animals.

Medicine-wise, Foothill does a great job preparing you overall. There are some areas that could be sharpened, or bettered, but I have heard they are working on this (an exotics course, etc.). I do think the course on the "soft skills" of working in vet med (which I mentioned above) would be extremely helpful to add, and would also help to slowly change and advance the overall vet med field.

Overall, Foothill program is a great program that instills a great foundation to get started in the vet tech field.

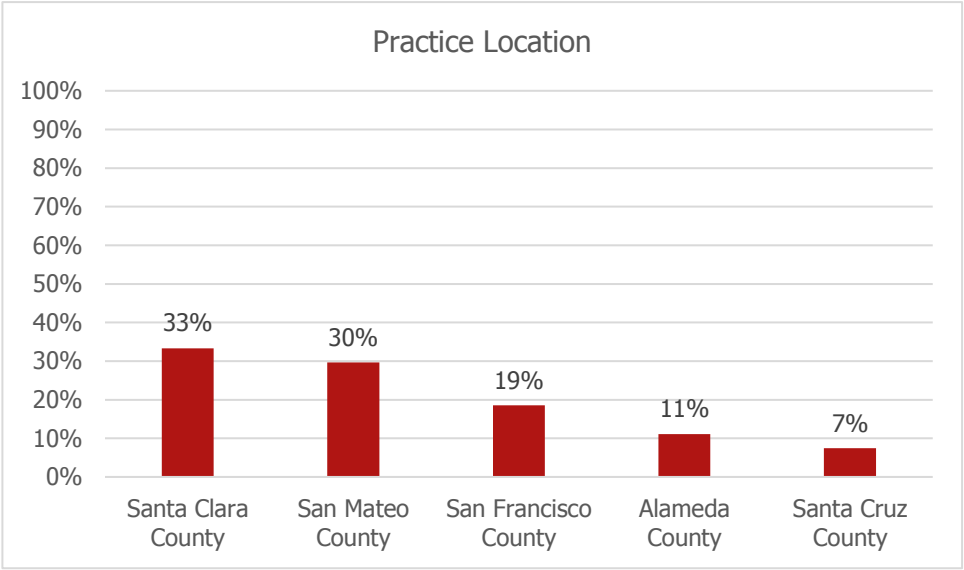
There is always more to learn in practice, but over all this program touches on everything, and really makes sure that the students know what they are doing before they head out into the field. There were also many great resources provided that I still use now.

Wonderful teachers and dedicated support staff. Fantastic internship program and preparation for Boards.

VT Employer Survey 2018 Results

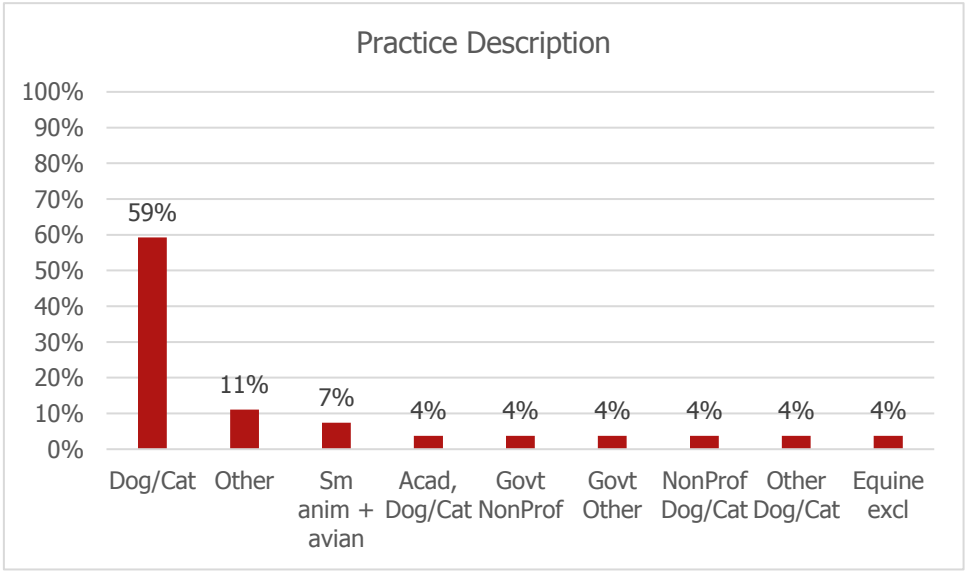
1. Indicate what country your practice is located. (27 responses)

Response	#	%
Santa Clara County	9	33%
San Mateo County	8	30%
San Francisco County	5	19%
Alameda County	3	11%
Santa Cruz County	2	7%
Total	27	100%



2. Which of the following descriptions best describes your practice? Check all that apply.

Response	#	%
Small animal dog and/or cat exclusive	16	59%
Other	3	11%
Small animal plus avian	2	7%
Academic, Small animal dog and/or cat exclusive	1	4%
Government, Not-for-profit organization humane society nature center etc.	1	4%
Government, Other	1	4%
Not-for-profit organization humane society nature center etc., Small animal dog and/or cat exclusive	1	4%
Other, Small animal dog and/or cat exclusive	1	4%
Equine exclusive	1	4%
Total	27	100%



Other Responses:

exotic, small mammal, dog, cat and avian general practice

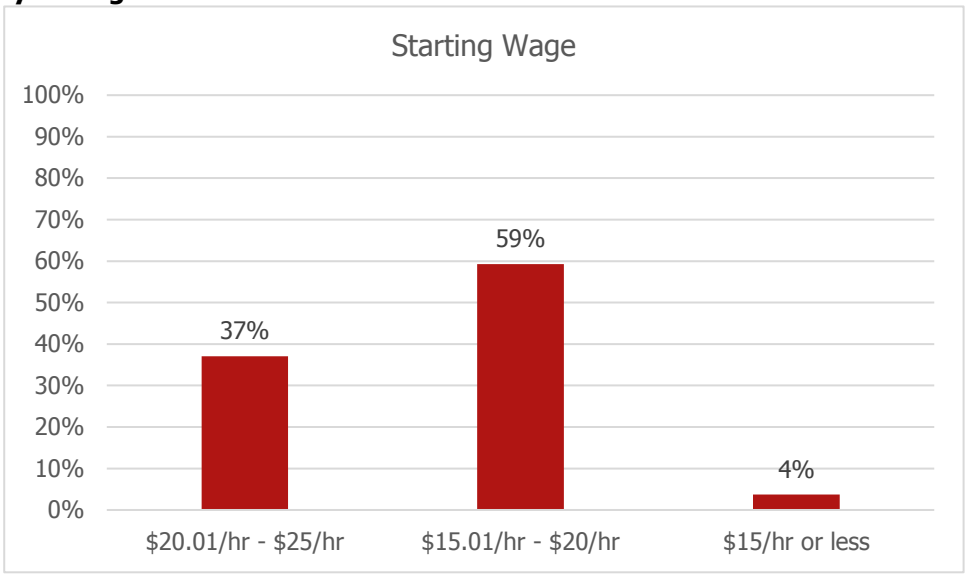
Small amount of exotics

Small Animal Plus Avian/Exotics

Note: Employers could select multiple responses.

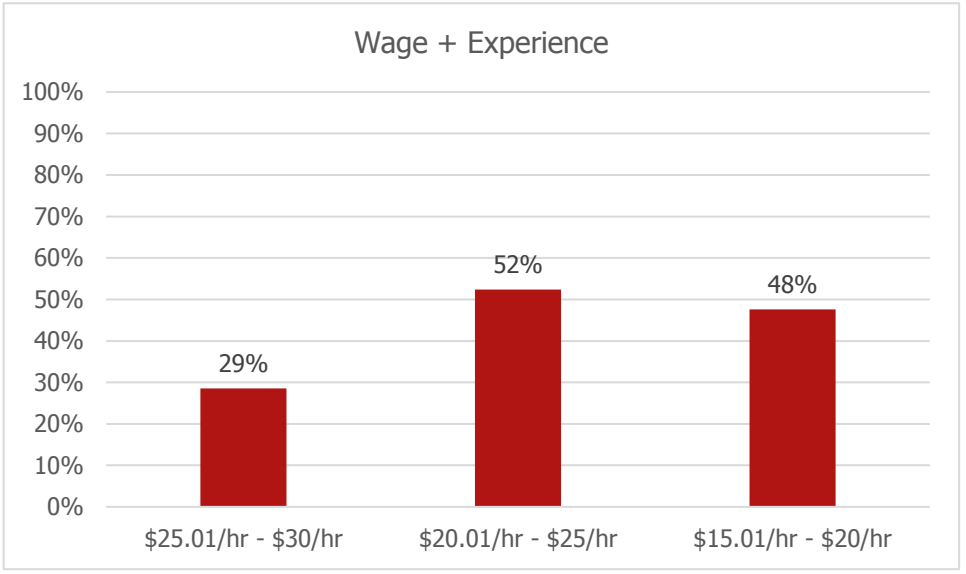
3. What is the starting hourly wage for veterinary technicians at your organization?

Response	#	%
$20.01/hr - $25/hr	10	37%
$15.01/hr - $20/hr	16	59%
$15/hr or less	1	4%
Total	27	100%



4. What is the hourly wage for veterinary technicians at your organization after 1-3 years of experience? (27 respondents)

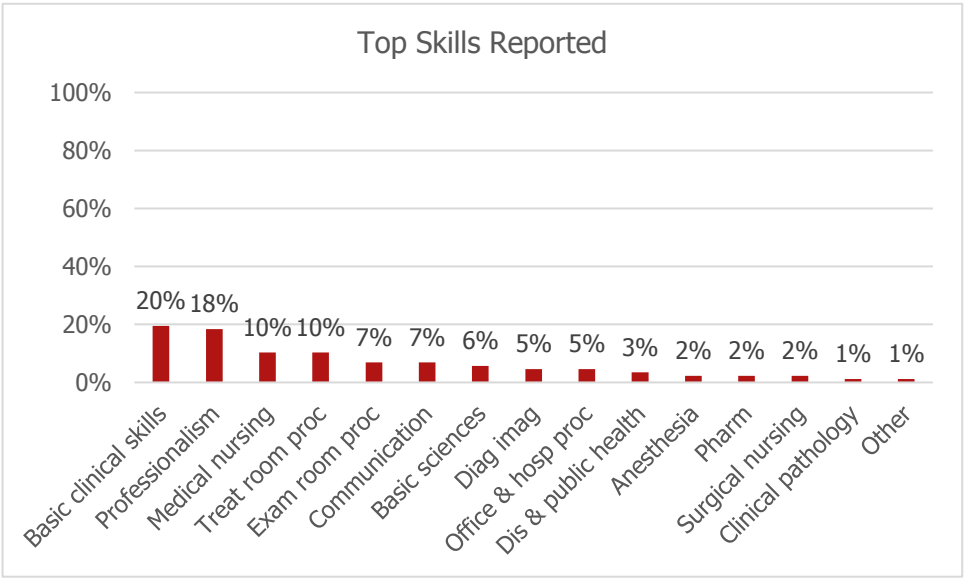
Response	#	%
$25.01/hr - $30/hr	6	29%
$20.01/hr - $25/hr	11	52%
$15.01/hr - $20/hr	10	48%
Total	21	100%



5. Indicate 3 topic areas where Foothill College Veterinary Technology graduates are generally well prepared. (27 respondents)

Response	#	%
Basic clinical skills	17	20%
Professionalism	16	18%
Medical nursing	9	10%
Treatment room procedures	9	10%
Exam room procedures	6	7%
Interpersonal communication skills	6	7%
Basic sciences	5	6%
Diagnostic imaging	4	5%
Office and hospital procedures	4	5%
Animal diseases and public health	3	3%
Anesthesia	2	2%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	2	2%
Surgical nursing	2	2%
Clinical pathology	1	1%
Other	1	1%
Total	87	100%

Note: Employers could select multiple responses.



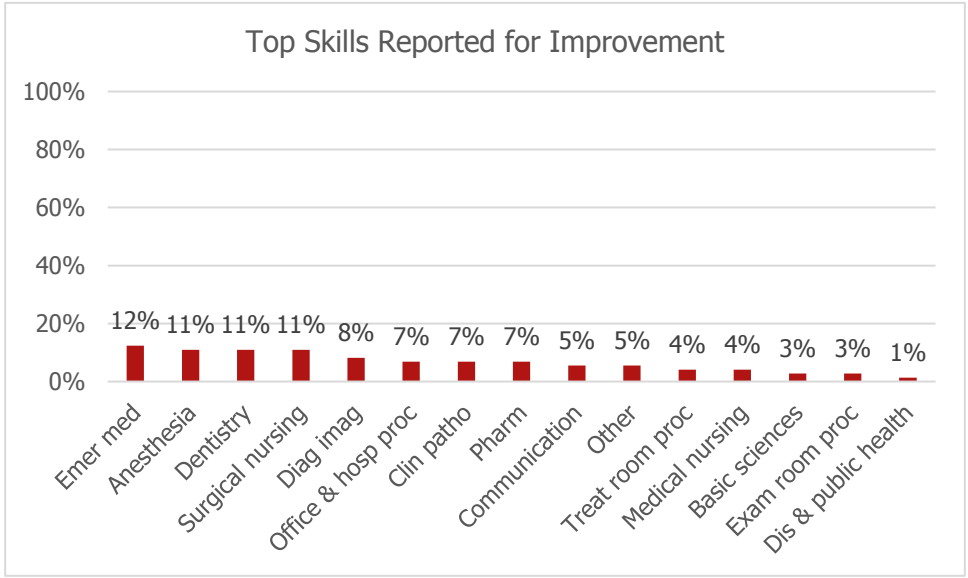
Other Responses:

"I don't know. I haven't hired a graduate."

6. Indicate 3 topic areas where Foothill College veterinary technology graduates are generally less prepared. (24 respondents)

Response	#	%
Emergency medicine	9	12%
Anesthesia	8	11%
Dentistry	8	11%
Surgical nursing	8	11%
Diagnostic imaging	6	8%
Office and hospital procedures	5	7%
Clinical pathology	5	7%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	5	7%
Interpersonal communication skills	4	5%
Other	4	5%
Treatment room procedures	3	4%
Medical nursing	3	4%
Basic sciences	2	3%
Exam room procedures	2	3%
Animal diseases and public health	1	1%
Total	73	100%

Note: Employers could select multiple responses.



Other Responses:

"I don't have other programs to compare to"
"I don't know. I haven't hired a graduate."
"Not applicable - Foothill excedes other programs"
"overall how things fit together"

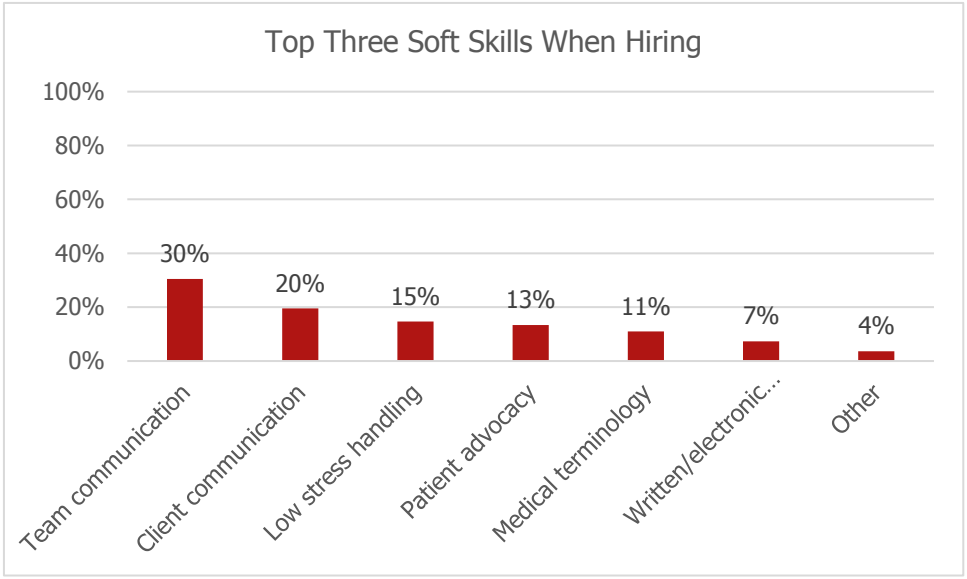
7. Indicate 3 communication skills you look for when hiring an entry level veterinary technician. (26 respondents)

Response	#	%
Team communication	25	30%
Client communication	16	20%
Low stress handling	12	15%
Patient advocacy	11	13%
Medical terminology	9	11%
Written/electronic communication	6	7%
Other	3	4%
Total	82	100%

Note: Employers could select multiple responses.

Other Responses:

"EI & direct communitation"
"Record keeping"
"self starter"



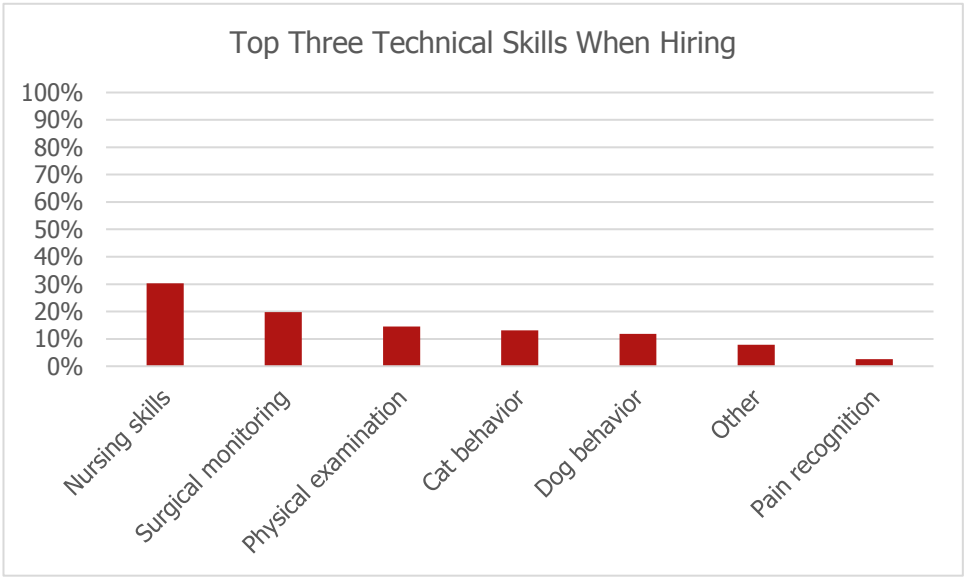
8. Indicate 3 technical skills you look for when hiring an entry level veterinary technician. (27 respondents)

Response	#	%
Nursing skills	23	30%
Surgical monitoring	15	20%
Physical examination	11	14%
Cat behavior	10	13%
Dog behavior	9	12%
Other	6	8%
Pain recognition	2	3%
Total	76	100%

Note: Employers could select multiple responses.

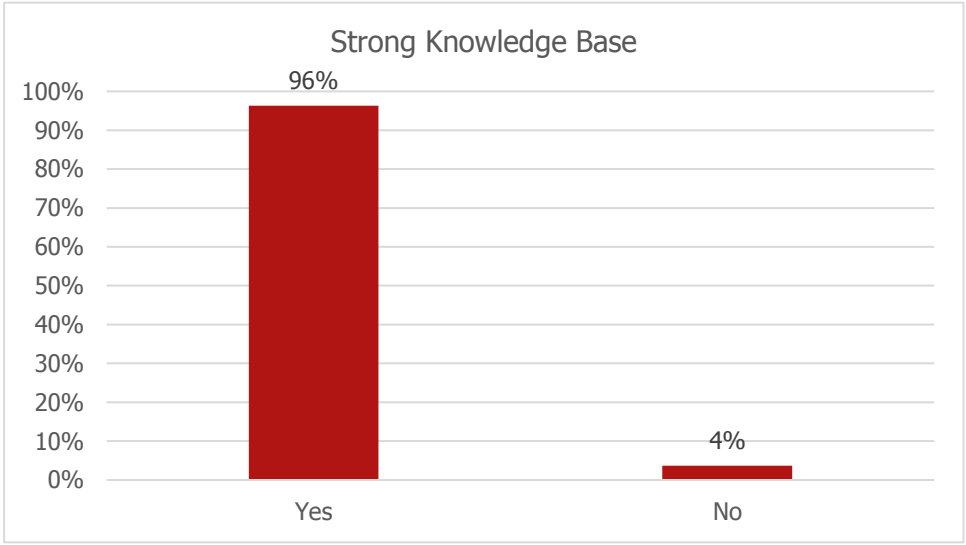
Other responses:

"Ability to learn"
"Dentistry"
"patient handling and restraint"
"Safe Handling of Horses, Bandaging"
"We hire for soft skills not technical skills"
"Willing to listen, learn, and work"



9. Indicate whether Foothill College Veterinary Technology graduates generally possess good basic knowledge and clinical skills related to the field. (27 respondents)

Response	#	%
Yes	26	96%
No	1	4%
Total	27	100%



Please explain your response. (16/27 responses):

Foothill is an excellent program and I have been very happy with the graduates. 10 of my 22 RVT's are graduates of Foothill

For their level of training, I think they do very well. Depending on the person, they usually pick up things fast.

Graduates come out FAR more prepared than other organizations

I don't know. I haven't hired a graduate.The person that I have hired is just starting the second year of your program

I feel as though our Foothill interns and graduates have a solid foundation in veterinary nursing. I wish they came to us with more hands-on practical experience.

I feel they are give a well rounded start for the field

I have found Foothill's Internship programs to be the most comprehensive and organized. Foothill seems to produce the most prepared graduates although we have only had interns from 2 programs.

I think most of the grads possess good basic knowledge. There are some that I wonder how they got as far as they did. These few students tend not to be good at listening and or think they know everything.

Most are willing and eager to learn.

Most of the foothill college graduates Ive met have a very good understanding of veterinary medicine and just need practice for their skills outside of school

Our experience with Foothill graduates has been positive

the only vet tech grads i have worked with have been foothill college grads and they have all displayed solid basic knowledge and clinical skills.

The students feel comfortable asking questions when they need to.

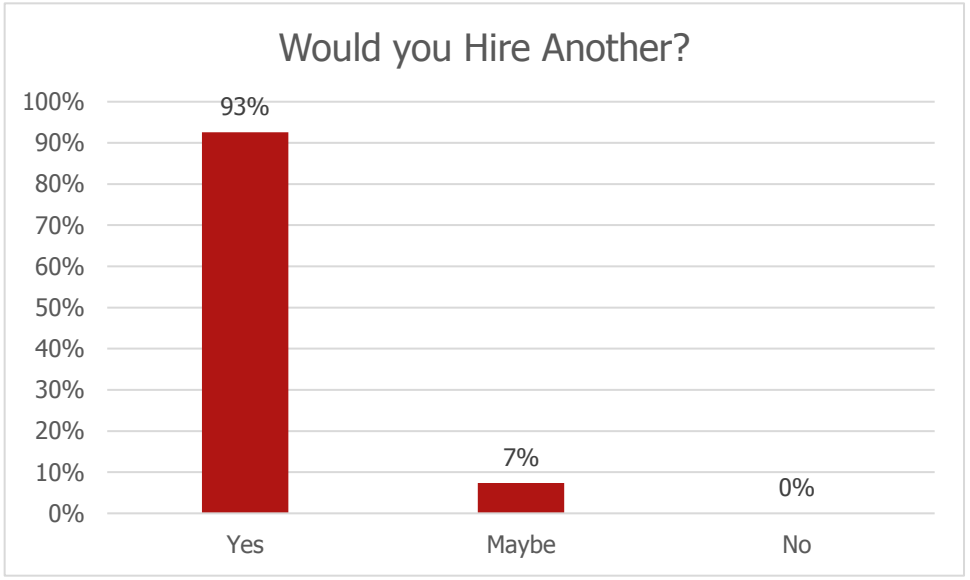
They are well above entry level students from other schools.

They understand a lot of the terminology, but are not able to actually perform on live animals.

With all the things expected for them to know, I feel the learn the basics on being able to start an entry level position.

10. Would you hire another Foothill College Veterinary Technology program graduate? (27 respondents)

Response	#	%
Yes	25	93%
Maybe	2	7%
No	0	0%
Total	27	100%



Please explain your response. (13/27 responses):

Absolutely! They are professional, sincere and eager to succeed. All of our RVTs on staff are Foothill graduates which we are very proud of.

Best tech grads out there!

FootHill students are the better prepared to do the job compaired to those from other programs such as Carrington, or online programs like Penn Foster.

I am a big advocate of the RVT program. But finding RVT's is extremely difficult. Please continue to produce individuals with good skills and ability to get along with others.

I definitely think the program is an excellent one that produces good technicians. However that being said the program is only as good as the student makes it. One of our interns came to us late in the process. It was a real challenge to try and teach that person in the field. If given the opportunity to interview a bunch of applicants; I would not want to hire that person. The previous sites were always the scape goat but after having put in some time myself I'm not so sure. My hope is that the specific person goes into research or something that has repetitive task w/o much variation. Not switching sites might of been more revealing for this individual early on.

I feel the graduates from this program are required to posses not only a skill but a passion for the field and the schools staff does a great job at identifying that in the students.

I respect how Foothill teaches clinical skills but also how to be a good employee and employee "citizenship"

it makes our job training someone when they already know the basic and are ready to get started

My experience with Foothill students are always positive. They are professional and take the externship seriously.

Our experience with Foothill graduates has been positive

They are among the best prepared for work in the real world.

With very few exceptions, we've had good experiences with our Foothill grads

Yes, We have hired numerous interns over the years!